

THE



TIMES

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Flower power

Alpha women do wear florals

TIMES2
FASHION

Strictly shoes!

The hot sandals to wear now



All aboard Jeremy Corbyn, showing off Labour's new battle bus in Manchester, will pledge to spend billions more on education by raising corporation tax. Pages 10-11

May pledges new vote on foxhunting

Jerome Starkey
Countryside Correspondent
Francis Elliott Political Editor

Theresa May promised MPs the chance to repeal the 12-year-old ban on foxhunting yesterday as she voiced her personal support for the practice.

The prime minister said that she had "always been in favour of foxhunting" after a Conservative peer claimed that a Tory majority of 50 after the general election, considered by pollsters to be easily within reach, could be enough to overturn the Hunting Act.

Some Tories questioned that assessment but Mrs May's surprise commitment will rally countryside sports activists to help the party's election efforts.

A ban on hunting foxes and other wild mammals with dogs in England and Wales was introduced under Tony Blair in 2004, becoming law the following year. Anti-hunting groups say that most voters support it.

Conservative campaign sources had refused to say whether Mrs May would repeat previous manifesto pledges to offer a free vote on overturning the ban.

During a visit to a factory in Leeds, she said: "This is a situation on which individuals will have one view or the other, either pro or against. As it happens, personally I have always been in Continued on page 2, col 3

Stop splitting up elderly couples

Judge attacks 'inhumanity' of care homes that force apart frail pensioners

Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor
Rosemary Bennett

The practice of separating elderly couples against their wishes when one or both move to a care home must stop, the most senior family judge has said.

Describing it as "simply inhumanity", Sir James Munby, president of the family division of the High Court, urged social workers to apply a "common decency test" and do more to keep couples together, whether in their own homes or in residential care.

In a speech yesterday, he said officials

should give higher priority to the happiness of those who had been together for decades and spend less time complying with procedures and safety rules.

Forcing frail people to leave their home because it was unsafe was not always the right decision if it made them miserable, he added.

Sir James, 68, told the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (Adass) in Stafford that it was "absolutely shocking and a profound indictment of our society" that elderly vulnerable couples who wanted to live together were sometimes refused shared

accommodation and told, "you're going to go here, you're going to go there". "I read with personal outrage — they are not happily that common — reports of cases where the results of the operation of the system is that people who may have been together for 30, 40 or maybe 50 years are separated in their final years," Sir James said. "That is simply inhumanity."

Nearly 300,000 elderly people live in care homes in England and Wales. Councils arranging care have a legal duty to ensure it meets their physical and psychological needs, respecting

their right to family life under the Human Rights Act.

Age UK backed Sir James's comments. Caroline Abrahams, its director, said: "Even if the local council is arranging and paying for care, they cannot just tell someone where they have to live."

She added: "In some cases partners may have different care needs but except in rare situations couples who want to stay together should be allowed to so."

Adass, whose members decide whether elderly, disabled or vulnerable people should live in residential care,

did not know how many were split from their partner when one or both became frail or ill.

Sir James said that he believed separation from a lifelong companion could be fatal. "We do know that people die from what colloquially we call a broken heart," he said. "It is very striking. One reads... cases where one spouse, after a 60 or 50-year marriage, has died and the other dies two days later. That is not chance or coincidence, I suspect."

He described a scenario in which an elderly couple or single person lived in Continued on page 4, col 1

IN THE NEWS

Avocado injuries

Growing numbers of amateur cooks are reporting to hospitals with "avocado hand", caused by the knife slipping when they try to penetrate the hard outer casing. **Page 3**

Anglican bishop row

An Anglican priest in Newcastle with orthodox views on homosexuality has been appointed a bishop in a secret ceremony outside the Church of England's control. **Page 5**

Theme park death

An 11-year-old girl has been killed during a school trip to a theme park. The girl, from Leicester, fell from Splash Canyon at Drayton Manor Park in Staffordshire. **Page 12**

Jihadists defend dam

Fourteen Islamic State fighters have held out for weeks against western special forces and their local allies at Syria's biggest dam, hindering the advance on Raqqa. **Page 28**

John Lewis underpaid

The employee-owned partnership behind John Lewis and Waitrose has set aside £36 million after finding that it has breached minimum wage regulations. **Page 35**

Wenger stands firm

Arsène Wenger has said that he would never work with a sporting director, putting the Arsenal manager into potential conflict with the club's chief executive. **Page 68**

Painkiller link to heart attacks

Common painkillers such as ibuprofen can raise the risk of a heart attack by about 50 per cent as soon as you start taking them, a study suggests. **Page 4**

Schism threat over bishop

An Anglican priest with orthodox views on homosexuality has been appointed a bishop outside the Church of England's control. **Page 5**

Girl killed in theme park fall

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COMMENT

May should be seeking more than a landslide. She should be seeking a mandate

DANIEL FINKELSTEIN, PAGE 23

Isis fighters defend dam

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John Lewis underpaid staff

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Wenger says no to director

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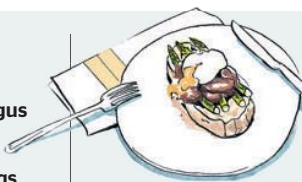
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DINNER TONIGHT

Griddled asparagus with balsamico chicken livers and poached eggs

The combination of juicy yet blistered griddled asparagus with creamy, crumbly chicken livers finished with a slug of spicy balsamic vinegar is rich and luscious, even more so when united by a poached egg. Serve over Pugliese toast for extra interest. **Serves 2 Prep 15 min Cook 15 min**
Ingredients: 250g chicken livers; flour to dust; 8 spears English asparagus; 2 tbsp olive oil; 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar; 2 eggs; 1 tbsp wine vinegar.



Boil kettle. Pick over chicken livers, separating the lobes, discarding any sinew or fatty pockets. Pat dry. Dust with seasoned flour, shaking off excess. Snap woody ends off asparagus; it will crack apart where tender meets fibrous. Heat a griddle, oil asparagus and when pan is very hot, lay out the spears and cook briefly, turning as they scorch and pop, taking about 4 min in total. Transfer to middle of 2 plates. Meanwhile, or

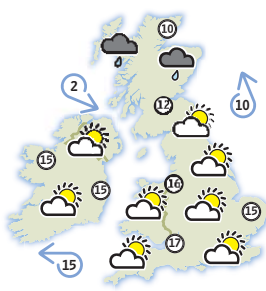
immediately the spears are done, heat remaining oil in frying pan and fry the floured livers, turning after a couple of minutes, adjusting heat to avoid burning but cook through to your liking; I like them pink in the middle. Splash livers with 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar mixed with 2 tbsp water and toss as flour thickens juices. Turn off the heat. Add 1 tbsp wine vinegar to a small pan of boiling water from kettle. Crack one egg into a cup and slip egg into pan followed by the second egg. Simmer until set. Spoon livers and juices over the asparagus and top with an egg. **Lindsey Bareham**

OFFER

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SEE PAGES 20-21 FOR DETAILS

THE WEATHER



Dry, bright and warm with long sunny spells for most areas. Cloudier in the far north. **Page 57**

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Government accused of bowing to Nissan's electric car demands

Sam Coates Deputy Political Editor

Ministers have been accused of giving in to demands from Nissan to keep car manufacturing jobs in the UK after the Brexit vote.

The Times has obtained a four-page letter from Paul Willcox, chairman of Nissan Europe, to Greg Clark, the business secretary, outlining the company's demands to ensure vehicles are still built at the Nissan plant in Sunderland.

Announcements by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Beis) over the past six months show that ministers made spending commitments which helped Nissan and reflected demands in the letter.

The government has always denied giving "compensation" to Nissan but admits it has given "reassurances" to the company and wider industry.

In one instance, the letter in October from Mr Willcox highlights a project to ensure batteries used in electric cars built by Nissan "have a sustainable second life as storage systems in homes and offices". "Storage allows people to store energy when tariffs are cheaper to use for free during peak hours," the letter said. Last month, a press release

announced that the government was investing in "exploring how old Nissan electric vehicle batteries can be used to store peak electricity from UK homes". The release, from Innovate UK — an agency overseen by Beis — announced that this was one of 12 projects which would share £18 million to develop ideas, and this would allow a "50-unit, 12-month trial led by Powervault", with Nissan as a key partner.

The Nissan letter said that "in terms of immediate tangible requests we believe that there are two primary areas the government could look to assist".

This would involve changing the planning framework to make it a requirement for large residential developments to have electric charging points and to force councils to ensure they are operational and accessible. The letter added: "It may be helpful to look at the German model: A €1 billion national programme to promote electric vehicles includes €330 million specifically allocated for infrastructure funding."

In October, a government press release said that it would offer grants to support the wider use of electric and hybrid vehicles. The Office for Low

Emission Vehicles would provide funding of up to 75 per cent towards the cost of installing electric vehicle charge-points at UK domestic properties.

In April, Mr Clark announced an Industrial Strategy challenge fund, offering £1 billion over four years for six key areas, including batteries and clean and flexible energy storage and self-driving cars.

At the end of October, Nissan announced that it would build the next generation of its Qashqai in the UK. Letters from the government to Nissan, with further details of commitments, have never been released.

Tim Farron, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "The government have just copy and pasted Nissan's demands and turned it into a press release. This saga shows the government has no real industrial policy and is having to bow to every demand to keep vital manufacturing jobs in Britain post-Brexit."

In October Greg Clark said there was no compensation deal with Nissan but he had given the company, and the industry, four key assurances to ensure the motorsector remains competitive, particularly in research and development for low-emission vehicles.

CPS decision today on Tory election spending

Sam Coates Deputy Political Editor

The Conservatives will discover today whether the Crown Prosecution Service is to press ahead with charges for breaking expenses rules in the 2015 election.

More than a dozen Tory MPs will be told at 10.30am whether they face trial over claims they broke the law by failing to record all disclosable spending.

Campaign sources believe those accused of overspending because they failed to disclose visits by Tory activists in a battlebus will be cleared. Tory headquarters (CCHQ) has taken responsibility for issuing guidance saying

that all battlebus expenses should be declared nationally rather than locally, and believe that individuals' compliance with this guidance means they acted properly.

Senior CCHQ figures are less clear over the outcome in Thanet South, where Craig Mackinlay fought Nigel Farage, Ukip leader at the time, in 2015.

Channel 4 News has published evidence that the Tories considerably overspent limits set under 2001 electoral law in Thanet South as part of the campaign. A string of senior Tory figures were seconded to the campaign, including Nick Timothy, who became joint chief of staff to Theresa May, and

Stephen Parkinson, who went on to be her political secretary.

CCHQ claimed that this team was fighting the national campaign against Ukip. Emails released by Channel 4 suggest that this group was fighting for Mr Mackinlay against Mr Farage.

After the election, Mr Mackinlay declared that he had spent £14,837.77 in the month up to polling day, just below his limit of £15,016.38, and the inclusion of other expenses would probably have pushed him over the limit. The MP has been interviewed under caution by police but denies any wrongdoing. Mr Timothy and Mr Parkinson are not accused of any wrongdoing.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Foxhunting

favour of foxhunting, and we maintain our commitment... to allow a free vote. It would allow parliament the opportunity to take the decision on this."

Mrs May voted against the ban in 2004 and rejected suggestions in 2009, from the astronomer Patrick Moore, that her position showed a "love of cruelty". "It's about a method of actually keeping fox numbers down," she said.

The League Against Cruel Sports accused the prime minister of elitism. "This smacks of a small minority with a cruel hobby wielding an inappropriately large influence over the people in charge," Eduardo Goncalves, director of the charity, said. "Are we really going to turn the clock back to a time when killing animals for fun was legal?"

Pro-hunting groups welcomed the prime minister's intervention. Tim Bonner, director of the Countryside Alliance, hailed her comments, and the prospect of a Tory landslide, as the best chance to repeal the ban.

In a letter to hunt masters, written before the announcement, the Tory peer Lord Mancroft said that "a majority of 50 or more would give us a real opportunity for repeal". Lord Mancroft, chairman of the Council of Hunting Associations, called on hunts to support sympathetic candidates. "This is by far the best opportunity we have had since the ban, and is probably the best we are likely to get in the foreseeable

Back to the future

Other policies a Tory landslide might herald:

Tax breaks for marriage Social conservatives will press for more recognition of the institution of marriage in tax and benefits

Profit-making free schools A huge majority could allow Mrs May to set up the equivalent of US charter schools that mix public and private funding

Replacing John Bercow as Speaker Tory backbenchers may want to finish off Mr Bercow, a hate figure for some Conservatives

ble future," he said. He urged them to help Vote OK, which co-ordinates support for the Tories at elections.

Pro-hunting MPs include Andrea Leadsom, the environment secretary. Tory opponents include Tracey Crouch, the sports minister, Caroline Dinenage, the equality minister, and the former justice minister Dominic Raab. All are patrons of Conservatives Against Fox Hunting. Sir Roger Gale, another patron, said up to 50 Tory MPs had opposed a repeal in the last parliament and there was little to suggest the new intake would be more in favour. **Election 2017, pages 8-11**

Dinner leak was a mistake, says Juncker

David Charter Berlin

Jean-Claude Juncker has denied that he or one of his team leaked details of his fractious Downing Street dinner with Theresa May on Brexit, calling the disclosure "a serious mistake".

The president of the European Commission also referred to the prime minister as a "tough lady" and said their "love" had limits.

Mr Juncker, or his inner circle, have been blamed by No 10 for a blow-by-blow account in a German newspaper of the private dinner on April 26.

Mr Juncker was put on the spot on Monday. "The fact that parts of this conversation were reported was a serious mistake," he said.

Gabor Steingart, of Handelsblatt newspaper, asked: "In which you were involved? Team Juncker?" Mr Juncker replied: "I am very talented with regard to self-criticism but I do not want to saddle myself with that." He was at pains to suggest that a wider group was privy to his views of the dinner. Mr Steingart said that only a small circle knew the details but Mr Juncker replied that "there is no such thing as a small circle".

Holy guacamole, that's got to hurt!

The global love affair with the avocado ends badly for too many home chefs, writes Gurpreet Narwan

No self-respecting bruncher would consider a late breakfast without a little smashed avocado on toast — but for many it comes at a high price.

Surgeons say growing numbers of amateur chefs are reporting to accident and emergency departments with what they are calling “avocado hand”; serious stab and slash injuries that are the result of failed attempts to penetrate the fruit’s hard outer casing with a sharp knife before encountering a resistant inner stone.

The British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons is calling for safety labels on the fruit to staunch the flow of injured patients to hospitals. Many cases involve serious nerve and tendon injuries, requiring intricate surgery — and even then some patients never recover the full use of the hand.

Simon Eccles, secretary of the association and former president of the plastic surgery section of the Royal Society of Medicine, said: “People do not anticipate that the avocados they buy can be very ripe and there is minimal understanding of how to handle them. We don’t want to put people off the fruit but I think warning labels are an effective way of dealing with this. It needs to be recognisable. Perhaps we could have a cartoon picture of an avocado with a knife, and a big red cross going through it?”

Hard figures for “avocado hand” have not been collated but it is a global phenomenon: Meryl Streep was photographed with a bandaged hand in 2012 after the fruit fought back. In New Zealand more than 300 people have sued for compensation from avocado injuries in the past five years. *The New York Times* ran an article this month headlined: “How to cut an avocado without cutting yourself” after the wife of a staff member had to be treated in hospital for a deep wound.

At Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London, Mr Eccles says he treats about four patients a week with



Jamie Oliver has posted a one-minute video to prevent more cases of “avocado hand”. Below, Meryl Streep



From testicles to face cream

What's in a name?

The word avocado has its origins in the Aztec word “ahuácatl” meaning testicle. It is thought to refer to both the shape of avocados, which grow in pairs, and their use as an Aztec symbol of love and fertility.

The flesh or the seed

The avocado stone is gaining recognition among foodies, who say it ought to be crushed and sprinkled over dishes. A 2003 study at the National University of Singapore concluded that it may contain more than 70 per cent of the antioxidants found in the entire fruit.

Blood avocados

With global demand for the product showing no signs

of relenting, Mexican drug cartels have got in on the act. In Michoacán, western Mexico, where 72 per cent of the country’s plantations are located, the lucrative trade is increasingly being

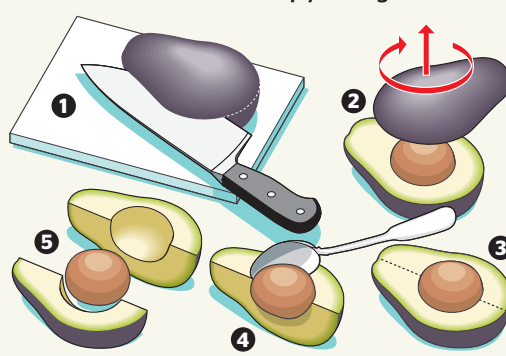
controlled by Caballeros Templarios (Knights Templar), a drugs cartel expanding its operations.

Avocado oil

From face cream to butter,

spin off products are being released at a terrific speed. Avocado oil is leading the way. According to data from Mintel, the number of product launches for avocado oil increased by 90 per cent globally in 2015-16.

How to cut an avocado and keep your fingers



The Chinese market

Avocado prices are thought to be at a record high due to poor harvests and soaring demand in China. Exports are rising at 250 per cent a year.



Light relief for workers who just want to be left alone

Mark Bridge Technology Correspondent

It is either an inspired way to tell chatterbox colleagues to keep their distance or a device worthy of George Orwell’s Ministry of Truth.

Scientists have created a desktop light linked to your computer that switches from green to red when an algorithm decides you’re “in the zone” and should not be disturbed.

Although the traffic light is intended to stop interruptions that damage productivity, its inventors say it can help motivate employees to work harder.

Those concerned that bosses might take a considerable interest in the time staff spend “free” may be alarmed that future versions will not only monitor workers’ computer activity but also their brainwaves and vital signs —

which could reveal their levels of concentration.

Thomas Fritz, of the University of British Columbia, created the FlowLight device with David Shepherd of ABB, an international industrial engineering company where exasperated software developers had resorted to putting traffic cones on their desks when they did not want to be distracted.

The FlowLight device changes colour depending on the intensity of an employee’s keyboard use and mouse clicks. Dr Fritz said it was important that this was automatic because once an employee was focused on a task it would be highly disruptive to manually turn on a red light, let alone erect a traffic cone.

The device was tested with 449 employees whose activity and interrup-

tions were tracked before and after installation of the light. According to a paper presented yesterday at the CHI 2017 conference in Colorado, the light reduced the total number of interruptions by 46 per cent without affecting important interruptions.

The average proportion of the working day that was very busy, as gauged by the FlowLight algorithm, increased from 5.9 per cent to 10.9 per cent, and almost two thirds of employees reported increased productivity. Over 70 per cent of respondents said the FlowLight was generally accurate in assessing how busy they were.

However, Dr Fritz concedes that key-

board and mouse activity are not the only indicators that someone is busy, and time spent thinking or reading can be equally valuable.

The researchers are working with companies in Vancouver to test an advanced version that uses biometric sensors to gauge busyness from heart rate variability, pupil dilation and brainwaves.

They hope to bring the updated device to market in the next few years. Most of the ABB employees involved in the trials have already chosen to keep using their



Critics fear the desktop activity monitor could turn “people into machines”

desk lights, telling the scientists that they had made colleagues more respectful of their time.

Several stressed the motivational benefits. One said: “When I notice my light is turning yellow, I’ll feel like, ‘Oh yeah, I’ve been idle’ and then I do something.”

Dr Fritz said the light was not intended to shame less industrious employees. He said there would be a limit to how long anyone’s light could stay red to prevent staff from becoming over-competitive or experiencing feelings of green-light guilt.

Mark Skilton, a technology expert at the University of Warwick, said: “This is based on the false assumption that lots of typing means you’re productive. It’s trying to make people into machines.” Leading article, page 27



Brave volunteer Helen Dwyer tests the 11C water at Jesus Green pool in Cambridge. Europe's longest lido opens for the season on Saturday after taking five days to fill

Taking common painkillers for one week may increase heart attack risk

Chris Smyth Health Editor

Common painkillers such as ibuprofen raise your risk of a heart attack by about 50 per cent as soon as you start taking them, the first study of its kind suggests.

Even people taking the occasional tablet for backache have been warned to consider alternatives and not assume that drugs are totally safe because they can be bought at a supermarket.

While previous research has established a heart risk for long-term use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), the latest study suggests that problems appear even in the first week of use.

Patients have been urged not to panic because the overall risk is low, amounting to about a 1 per cent chance of a heart attack in a year if taking the tablets daily. However, researchers say

that people ought to be aware of the risk.

The NHS dispenses almost 15 million of these anti-inflammatories on prescription each year, mainly ibuprofen, naproxen and diclofenac. The last of these is now prescription-only because of concerns about heart problems.

Evidence of a link to heart risks has been accumulating for a decade and the latest study looked at data on 447,000 people in three countries, including Britain, about 61,000 of whom had heart attacks.

Taking any dose was found to increase the risk even in the first seven days of regular use, Canadian scientists report in *The BMJ*. Although the study cannot prove the drugs directly caused heart attacks, any dose of ibuprofen was linked to an immediate 48 per cent increase in risk, rising to 75 per cent for

a high dose for a month. The risk fell back to normal within a year of stopping the drugs.

Michèle Bally, of the University of Montreal hospital research centre, who led the study, urged people "not to pop these medicines without considering it". She said it was vital to make people aware of the risk without terrifying them, because more restrained use of the drugs could prevent heart attacks.

She said: "For an individual the risk is extremely low so we would want to reassure people. The idea is to make them aware that if they take these medicines on an occasional basis you should consider alternatives. Should you use physio, or not treat your pain because it's not that bad?"

Doctors have previously said sales of these drugs should be restricted to pharmacies where advice on risks can

be given and Dr Bally said: "I think it's something that regulatory authorities might want to consider."

Mike Knapton, associate medical director of the British Heart Foundation, said: "This study highlights how quickly you become at risk of having a heart attack after starting NSAIDs. People must be made aware and alternative medication considered."

John Smith, chief executive of the manufacturers' group the Proprietary Association of Great Britain, said people taking low doses of NSAIDs occasionally should not be concerned. "The study also showed that after patients had taken their last prescribed dose, their risk of heart attack decreased over time back to normal levels of risk, which indicates the NSAIDs had no lasting effect on someone's probability of suffering a heart attack."

Treat elderly couples with decency, social workers told

Continued from page 1

a run-down house with steep stairs, deemed unsafe by a building inspector but not suitable for a stairlift. "Merely demonstrating that if you let that person go on living in that house there is a foreseeable and appreciable risk that one day a neighbour or carer will come in and find them with a broken neck at the bottom of the stairs — is that sufficient justification for making them leave, if it is going to make them thoroughly miserable?" he asked. "If, given the choice, if the time comes, would you both rather be moved off to somewhere which is safer or would you both rather stay together? I suspect most people would give the second answer."

He urged social workers to focus less on procedures and consider whether separating elderly couples or moving someone from their home was in some cases simply wrong. "Does it accord with the ordinary concept of humanity,

Case studies

Jill Manley said that her father "died of a broken heart" after he was told he could no longer share a care home with his wife when he suffered a stroke last year (Neil Johnston writes).

John Smith, 93, who lived with his wife, Marjorie, 87, in Blackburn, was told that he had to move to a nursing home in Bolton. The couple, right, had been married 67

years. Mrs Manley, 58, asked for her mother to move with her father or for him to return to the original home with extra support, but both ideas were refused. He died weeks later in hospital.

"It was paramount

she should be with him," Mrs Manley said. "The healthcare trust wouldn't look at anything other than putting him in the nursing home. They refused point-blank."

Last December Ralph and Cecelia Martin, 89 and 94, from Surrey, who had been inseparable since they met in 1951, were forced to move apart. Funding was cut from Mr Martin's care budget and his move to a care home went ahead.



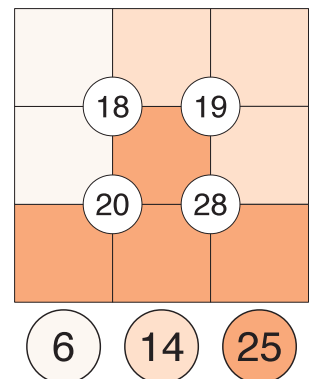
empathy, decency? If it does, all right. If it doesn't, you need to go back and ask yourself whether it is justifiable."

Stephen Burke, director of *The Good Care Guide*, said that couples made up less than 1 per cent of the population of residential homes but added: "With male longevity rising rapidly, more couples may seek to live in the same care home in coming years."

Couples who object to being separated, or their families, can ask the local authority for a fresh assessment of their needs if the council is paying the fees, or go to the local government ombudsman to challenge the decision.

Margaret Willcox, of Adass, said: "Councils do not and cannot 'send' people to residential care without applying for safeguards. There are always complex issues to consider, such as how to make this work where relationships are abusive, or when one person has needs the other can't cope with."

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Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solution and more puzzles
MindGames in Times2

Terror suspect charged

A terrorist suspect arrested in Whitehall carrying knives has been charged with making or possessing explosives in Afghanistan in 2012 and preparing terrorist acts. Khalid Mohammed Omar Ali, 27, was arrested near Downing Street on April 27. The charges said that the former aid volunteer had under his control a "quantity of explosive substances" with intent to endanger life. He is due to appear at Westminster magistrates' court today.

Cancer diagnoses rise

Cancer diagnoses will exceed 400,000 a year by 2020, according to figures from Cancer Research UK. More than 384,000 people will find out they have the disease this year, which will rise to 413,755 by 2021. The charity, which said another two million cases would be diagnosed during the next parliament, called on the government to make world-class treatment its priority.

Woman burnt by acid

A British holiday rep is in hospital after being doused with acid at a resort in the Algarve in Portugal. Eleanor Chessell, 28, from the Isle of Wight, was working at the Alvor Baia hotel in the fishing village of Alvor when she was attacked on Saturday. She was taken to Lisbon for specialist burns treatment. Thomson & First Choice said that police were investigating the attack.

Danczuk rape claim

Simon Danczuk, who was suspended by Labour, has been accused of rape by a young woman. He allegedly carried out the attack in the Westminster area last May. Mr Danczuk, 50, said the accusation was "totally false" and suggested it was timed two days before the closure of nominations for election candidates in Rochdale where he will stand as an independent.

Public inconvenienced

Wealthy residents of Sandbanks in Dorset are complaining that their multimillion-pound properties are being used as urinals after the only public loos were closed. People queueing for a ferry on the peninsula in Poole Harbour used to be able to use the lavatories next to the slipway, but since the council closed them to save money tourists caught short face a 1.2-mile walk.

Renegade bishop raises threat of schism over gays

Kaya Burgess

Religious Affairs Correspondent

A renegade Anglican bishop has been appointed outside the Church of England's control by a foreign Christian leader, in a significant first step towards a split in the church over the issue of homosexuality.

Church of England officials were shocked to learn that in a secret ceremony last week, one of its priests was consecrated as an Anglican bishop in England by the leader of a hardline Anglican church in South Africa, in a direct challenge to the Church of England's authority.

The Rev Jonathan Pryke, 57, is a curate at a church in Newcastle with orthodox views on homosexuality, and is now also a bishop under the auspices of the conservative Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa.

This grants him power not only to found new Anglican churches but also to ordain new Anglican clergy in England outside the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Conservative groups have previously

warned that churchgoers who oppose the Church of England's liberal stance on same-sex relationships may form a parallel Anglican church in England overseen by their own bishops.

The Church of England does not support same-sex marriage but has taken a liberal stance towards clergy in same-sex relationships, including its first openly gay bishop, as long as they are celibate, and has called for a more welcoming attitude towards gay worshippers.

The Church of England, which has its own bishop in Newcastle, the Right Rev Christine Hardman, said yesterday that it would be illegal for Mr Pryke to act as a bishop within the Church of England.

Disciplinary action, including the termination of a priest's licence, is possible under the Clergy Disciplinary Measure if a priest's conduct is deemed to be "unbecoming or inappropriate" to their holy orders, although Mr Pryke's parish denied that the measure would apply to him.

Mr Pryke is a Cambridge-educated minister serving at Jesmond parish

church, which has a long history of conflict and schism with the Church of England.

He co-signed a letter to Church of England bishops last year, before their review of the church's attitude towards gay worshippers, calling on them to stick to orthodox Christian opposition to same-sex marriage and gay sex and urging them not to "undermine confidence in our inherited teaching".

Last Tuesday he was made a bishop by Bishop Glenn Lyons, leader of the South African church, known as Reach-SA, in a ceremony at an undisclosed location in the Newcastle area. Reach-SA is itself a parallel church to



The Rev Jonathan Pryke has orthodox views on gay issues

the mainstream Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Mr Pryke insisted that he did not want bishops "parachuted in" to form a parallel "orthodox church" in England, but instead wanted to "help English people have the courage to take responsibility for reforming the Church of England". He will spend 80 per cent of

his time serving at his parish and the rest founding new churches.

The Church of England said: "The Bishop of Newcastle is aware that a minister holding her licence to a parish within the diocese has taken part in a service of consecration as a bishop under the auspices of an overseas church."

It added that "the clearly established law of the land" states that "no overseas bishop may exercise episcopal functions within the Church of England without the express permission of the archbishop of the province and a commission from the bishop of the diocese in which they wish to minister. In this case neither has been sought."



Ballroom star Shirley Ballas, 56, a former international Latin dance champion, will replace Len Goodman as the chief judge on Strictly Come Dancing, the BBC said

Former No 10 adviser gave 'top secret' advice to Macron

Sam Coates Deputy Political Editor

One of David Cameron's top aides gave secret advice to the campaign for the French president-elect Emmanuel Macron, leaked emails have revealed.

Ameet Gill, the former director of strategic communications at No 10, charged €18,600 (£15,600) for polling and "advisory services".

The information emerged in a cache of leaked documents which were published after a hack on Friday night. It included email correspondence and an invoice from Hanbury Strategy, the company set up by Mr Gill and Paul Stevenson, another former Tory special adviser who was director of communications at Vote Leave.

Mr Gill is close to George Osborne, the former chancellor, who formed a bond with Mr Macron when the pair were both finance ministers in the G7. The correspondence includes an email

from Mr Gill to Ismael Emelien, the 29-year-old "right-hand man" of Mr Macron, described by *Le Monde* as an "essential cog in the campaign".

In a message sent on April 19, Mr Gill says: "Re the poll — it's looking good. There are some circumstances where you may have given too many options, but leave that with us for now. We will try and get all the options in and won't change anything without your permission." He promises data within a week.

Mr Emelien forwards the message on to a colleague, asking that it be paid as quickly as possible and stressing the need to keep secret the involvement of Mr Gill and Hanbury. His message said: "Thank you for keeping this top secret — nobody can see other than [two other campaign aides] you and me."

A Hanbury spokesman said: "We are unable to comment on any confidential work that we carry out."

Valls wants to join the party, page 31



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Men who died on speedboat were suspected puppy smugglers

Gurpreet Narwan

Two men who died after their speedboat went missing off the Scottish coast are suspected to have been involved in the multimillion-pound puppy smuggling trade.

The bodies of Sandy Hamilton, 35, and Kevin McKinlay, 46, were recovered from the Irish Sea on Sunday after they failed to return from a trip out of the village of Port Logan in Galloway.

Officers said the destination of the two men, both from Larkhall, Lanarkshire, was unknown. About ten rescue teams and two search and rescue helicopters were involved in the search, which lasted more than 24 hours. BBC

Scotland reported last night that both men were known to the authorities in connection with the illegal trade of puppies from the Republic of Ireland.

In a *Panorama* investigation broadcast last year, the BBC broadcast footage that showed Hamilton being stopped on a ferry from Northern Ireland in 2015. The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals found puppies in the boot of his car but Hamilton was allowed to continue his journey.

The search was carried out under Operation Delphin, a joint initiative between Stena Line, Police Scotland, Trading Standards and Revenue and Customs to tackle the illegal puppy

trade and protect the welfare of the animals.

According to the BBC, the pair may have been travelling to collect more animals when the fatal incident occurred. The BBC said it understood that Hamilton's body was recovered along with a substantial amount of cash.

At the time of his death Hamilton was also facing trial in July over the deaths of two elderly people after a road crash in 2015. He was accused of causing death by dangerous driving which resulted in the deaths of Giovanni Coppolaro, 85, and his wife, Maria, 83, from St Ives, Cambridgeshire.

Mr and Mrs Coppolaro had been travelling in a Jaguar on the A73 in



Puppies were found on a ferry in a car that was driven by one of the two men

North Lanarkshire when it was hit by a Volkswagen being driven by Hamilton. He had denied overtaking a lorry on a bend when it was unsafe to do so.

Hamilton and McKinlay were re-

ported missing on Saturday evening and found about two and a half miles southwest of the Mull of Galloway the following day.

Police Scotland said the exact circumstances surrounding their deaths were unknown but the men may have fallen victim to rough conditions at sea.

An undercover inspector for the Scottish SPCA said: "We are committed to improve the welfare of dogs within intensive breeding regimes."

The *Panorama* investigation included recordings from inside Irish puppy farms that showed breeding dogs kept in ramshackle cages, with water supplied to them by pipes that are normally seen in battery pig farming.

Two out of three schools forced to cut teaching staff

Rosemary Bennett Education Editor

Almost two thirds of schools will cut one or more teaching posts before the new academic year begins in September because of falling budgets, a survey of hundreds of head teachers found.

Results from 707 primary and secondary schools across 14 counties found that they planned to get rid of 1,161 teaching posts and 1,595 teaching assistant posts.

One in five of the schools was cutting three or more teachers. The average loss was 1.5 teaching posts.

Heads warned that more pupils would be placed in classes of 35 or more from September. Some schools are withdrawing GCSE and A-level subjects to cope with their new budgets. ICT has emerged as one of the most vulnerable subjects.

The survey found that some schools were asking parents to contribute financially to keep subjects going. At others, parents' associations were starting to pay for the school library and music lessons.

The survey was conducted by a group of head teachers and Fair Funding for Schools, the parent-led campaign group.

Having been protected for many years from the worst of the cuts, schools were told that their budgets would be reduced by £3 billion, or 7 per cent, between this year and 2020.

These cuts will, in many cases, be exacerbated by a new National Funding Formula that will redistribute

money from inner-city schools to the shires. However, even the "winners" under the formula will have to make cuts because the gains are not enough to make up for the larger budget cuts.

The Conservatives are under pressure to revise the funding formula if they win the election and are likely to protect those hardest hit. However, there has been no indication that they will back down on the £3 billion cuts.

Jules White, head teacher of Tanbridge House School in West Sussex, a secondary that specialises in maths, science and IT, said that standards and hard-won improvements in results were in jeopardy.

"It is clear that devastating cuts to staffing and educational provision are occurring in thousands of schools across the country. In turn, children's educational opportunities are being blighted by the loss of thousands of teaching and teaching support posts," he said.

"There is no question that educational standards will suffer and politicians must now allay our fears and make clear commitments to school funding in the run-up to the general election."

The Department for Education says that school funding has been protected and is at record levels.

Mr White called the record funding claim "disingenuous" because it does not take account of an increase in the number of children at school after a baby boom.

Spending per pupil in real terms was being "slashed", he said.

Police dismissed woman's abuse claims as hearsay

John Simpson Crime Correspondent

The family of a healthcare worker who killed herself after nearly a decade of alleged domestic abuse reported death threats which were dismissed by police as "hearsay", according to a leaked report seen by *The Times*.

Meera Dalal, 25, repeatedly retracted abuse allegations against her ex-boyfriend in the years before she was found dead at her parents' home last year.

She and her family told officers that they feared retribution, saying her alleged abuser threatened to send "friends with guns" to her sister's home. Officers told the police watchdog that

the alleged threats were hearsay and "throwaway comments". According to the leaked report by the Independent Police Complaints Commission, an officer who visited the family home in Syston, Leicestershire, described the family as "frightened and almost frantic" when they declined to divulge the former boyfriend's name.

Ms Dalal's former boyfriend has never been charged in relation to the complaints and no specific firearms intelligence log was created after the reports. Four officers from Leicestershire police were cleared of misconduct in the unpublished report which was delivered in January.

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TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS; ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Navy friend catches up with 'randy' Philip

When Prince Philip first met fellow officer Keith Evans it was 1947, the year that he married Princess Elizabeth (Valentine Low writes). It was also the Royal Navy, which may explain Commander Evans's recollections of the Duke of Edinburgh when he met him again yesterday, 70 years later. "He was a bit randy, but you had better not put that down," he said. A few minutes later he agreed to put aside his discretion, but with one proviso. "Not 'a bit'," he said. "Very."

In November 1947, Philip, then Lieutenant Mountbatten, married the future queen at Westminster Abbey;

from which point on, of course, he put his old naval ways behind him, whatever the gossips say.

Commander Evans, 97, who served on HMS Hood, met the duke yesterday as he and the Queen visited Pangbourne College in Berkshire for its centenary. "Like Prince Philip, I'm standing down from most things in August," he joked.

Welcoming Philip's decision to retire, he added: "I think it is rather good news. He will do what he wants rather than what she tells him to do. He will still be around."

Commander Evans, who lives in Haslemere, West Sussex, and is chairman of the HMS Hood Association as well as being the oldest living Pangbournian,



met the duke when they were both at HMS Royal Arthur, a shore establishment at Corsham, Wiltshire. "He was 18 months junior," he said. "He was lieutenant. I was about to be promoted to lieutenant commander." He reminisced with



The duke and the Queen at Pangbourne College for its centenary. Top left: Keith Evans

Philip about old times and showed him a letter that the duke had sent him — addressed to "My dear Scratch".

If Commander Evans was frank about Philip, he was even more outspoken about his time at Pangbourne, then known as the Nautical College. "It was pretty bloody awful

then," he said. "But I made many friends."

Despite last week's announcement that Philip, 95, is to retire from public life at the end of the summer, he was on sprightly form.

Thomas Garnier, the headmaster, said: "I did not get the impression that he was slowing down."

Police drug-test company 'tampered with results'

John Simpson Crime Correspondent

Thousands of convictions for crimes including murder, rape and assault may be ruled unsafe after claims that employees of a private firm "manipulated forensic tests", police have warned.

More than 6,000 toxicology tests carried out by two workers at Randox Testing Services (RTS) are being repeated after concerns were raised during a drug-driving trial in January.

The scope of the investigation was revealed yesterday by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) after it had previously stated that only 484 samples were thought to have been affected.

Two Manchester employees of RTS, a division of the Randox Laboratories group, which is based in Northern Ireland, have been arrested on suspicion of perverting the course of justice. They are accused of tampering not with the samples themselves, but with the data in such a way that a clean sample would appear positive.

A team of forensic experts has been assembled by the NPCC, the Forensic Science Regulator, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Home

Office to work with police forces across the country to prioritise samples for retesting.

"This process will identify any live cases which require retesting and any past cases where convictions could be unsafe," the NPCC said in a statement.

"The majority of cases affected are road traffic act offences such as drug driving. However, Randox provided toxicology tests for other offences including rape, assault and murder so it is possible these cases could also be affected."

Randox, which had a turnover of £92 million last year, became aware of a problem in January and an internal investigation led to one staff member being dismissed. The firm is approved by the Home Office and handles up to 80,000 cases a year.

An investigation by the Forensic Science Regulator has determined that no forensic toxicology results from Randox should be relied on because it is not possible to rule out manipulation.

Accreditation was suspended at the company's Manchester lab on March 21 and it has voluntarily suspended accreditation at its Northern Ireland

site. Randox is fully co-operating with the investigation. It is not yet clear how many force areas are affected because while some forces do not directly use Randox, many use companies that subcontract out work.

The CPS has advised prosecutors, for those cases where they are relying on positive tests as part of a prosecution, to request adjournments so that the data can be retested.

Private firms were brought in to carry out testing after the state-run Forensic Science Service was controversially abolished in 2012. A report from the National Audit Office in 2015 warned that standards were at risk of slipping under the new scheme and questioned the Home Office's oversight of spending.

Deputy Chief Constable James Vaughan, of the NPCC, said: "We now have a clearer picture of the scale of this data manipulation and have been able to set out a plan. The numbers affected could change as our investigations progress. While there has been limited retesting, to date, the evidence has shown that in the vast majority of cases, the original reporting was accurate."

Gunman in the house: last text sent by murdered doctor

Boer Deng Washington

"Gunman in the house" was the final desperate text message sent by the British doctor who was murdered alongside his fiancée in their luxury penthouse flat in Boston.

Residents of the apartment block were shocked to discover that the suspect in the double murder had worked as their security guard.

Bampumim Teixeira briefly held a job in the building where Richard Field, 50, an anaesthetist originally from Hammersmith, west London, and Lina Bolanos, 38, who was also an anaesthetist, were murdered.

The two were discovered with their hands bound and throats slit in their 11th-floor, \$1.9 million suite on Friday.

In an email to tenants, the management board of the residential Macallen Building confirmed that "the suspect... did serve our community as a concierge before leaving the building on his own terms after a few short weeks".

Mr Teixeira, 30, was employed by Palladian Services, the security firm that provided staff for the building until February.

In 2014 he tried to rob a branch of Citizens Bank in Boston. He returned to the same branch last year demanding "5,000 [dollars] or I'll shoot you and



Richard Field and Lina Bolanos were killed in their Boston flat on Friday

everybody here now". He was given \$212 and a dye pack. Police later discovered Mr Teixeira's discarded fedora and shirt at a nearby metro station. There was no evidence he had a gun.

Jack Fu, a resident, said he was surprised that Mr Teixeira was able to gain entry into the couple's home. "You can't get up there without a key," he said. "The elevators wouldn't even open the door for you without a key. So there's no access unless someone lets you in."

On Friday police found a set of keys on the floor outside the flat, which they used to enter. Mr Teixeira was caught at the scene during what appeared to be an attempted robbery. Police found a backpack full of jewellery, a replica firearm and at least one knife. On Monday he was charged before a judge while still in his hospital bed.

News Election 2017

War heroes fire a warning shot

Deborah Haynes Defence Editor

Theresa May has been urged to fix a funding crisis in the armed forces that is threatening Britain's ability to fight wars in a letter signed by former military chiefs and decorated junior personnel.

A failure to address the challenges facing defence would damage Britain's credibility on the international stage, they warned.

"The armed services are having to seek further very damaging savings in manpower, support and training at a time when the likelihood of combat operations is increasing," the letter said.

"These realities of the security situation must be faced," it added, listing the threat posed by President Putin's "nuclear sabre-rattling" over Crimea and the unpredictability of North Korea.

The letter was delivered to Downing Street via Conservative headquarters by James Glancy, 34, a former Royal Marines captain who earned a Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, the second highest award for gallantry in combat, in Afghanistan in 2013.

It marks the first public intervention by the military in the election campaign and comes as Mrs May prepares to meet Jens Stoltenberg, the secretary-general of Nato, at No 10 today. Funding for the armed forces is expected to be among the topics discussed.

Britain is one of five countries that meets a Nato target to spend at least 2 per cent of GDP on defence. The letter, however, said that such "government boasts... are widely criticised as an accounting deception. Most analysts agree core defence expenditure for hard military power is well below 2 per cent."

The mix of 24 signatories to the letter,

The shrinking military

UK personnel

Regular army

2010	108,900
2017	79,440

Royal Navy and Royal Marines

35,000*
29,160

RAF

38,000*
30,830*

*Estimate

Sources: SDSR 2010, HCDC reports, MoD statistics

from Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce and General Lord Richards of Herstmonceux — former chiefs of defence staff — to lance corporals Cayle Royce and Peter Dunning — a soldier and a Marine who lost their legs in combat — is a sign of the frustration across all ranks at the state of the armed forces.

The letter, also signed by General Sir Richard Barrons, a former four-star officer, and four academics, gave credit to a review of defence in 2015 that committed Britain to buying new warships, nuclear-armed submarines, supersonic jets and armoured vehicles, but it warned that the government had failed to pledge enough resources to achieve those aims.

"Responses by the [Ministry of Defence] to questions about the adequacy of the defence budget raised by respected and informed commentators have been disingenuous, evading the issue by the relentless quoting of irrelevant financial statistics," the letter said.

Sir Michael Fallon, the defence secretary, has said that the defence budget is rising in real terms annually and that the government has committed to spend £178 billion on equipment and

support over the next ten years. However, analysis by *The Times* has found that the military faces a £10 billion shortfall in funding over the next decade, with some experts putting the black hole at £20 billion.

The letter warned that Britain's military ambitions were based on "unidentified and economically questionable savings". It also noted that a drop in the value of the pound raised questions about the affordability of equipment bought in dollars, including the F-35 fighter jet and the missiles to be used by the Royal Navy's replacement Trident submarines. "The solution is simple: fund the [2015] review properly and if this means a commitment to increase expenditure over the lifetime of the Parliament, then do it," the letter said.

Responding to the letter, Sir Michael said: "The choice at the election is clear — between the strong leadership of Theresa May, who has shown she is prepared to defend Britain's interests in the world and will give our armed forces the resources they need, or Jeremy Corbyn, who has called for the army to be abolished and committed never to use our nuclear deterrent."

● Britain is looking at increasing the number of troops in Afghanistan four years after Nato's combat operations ended. Any new deployment, which has not yet been confirmed, is expected to be in the tens rather than hundreds of soldiers. Britain already has about 500 troops helping provide security in Kabul and training Afghan officers, along with an undisclosed number of special forces. Nato has asked its members to send extra troops to help end 16 years of violence. Theresa May and Jens Stoltenberg, Nato secretary general, meet at Downing Street today.

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Energy bills could continue to rise after Tory price cap, PM admits

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

Energy prices could still rise every year under the proposed Conservative cap, the prime minister has admitted.

Theresa May insisted it was right to intervene to tackle "rip-off" standard variable tariffs but confirmed that the cap set by the regulator Ofgem would rise if suppliers' costs increased.

"I don't think any government can ever promise that no bill is going to go up year on year," she said.

Mrs May has said that the cap should save the 17 million households on standard tariffs up to £100 a year.

Analysts agreed that the proposed cap was likely to reduce standard tariffs initially, but warned it was then likely to have to rise to accommodate increases in policy and network costs that are levied on bills. These include subsidies for new offshore wind farms, which have been awarded contracts guaranteeing payments in future years.

Cornwall Energy, an industry consultancy, said cost increases of about £50 per household were "locked in" over the next parliament. "Administering the price cap therefore risks being tantamount to signing off bill increases for the industry," it warned.

Wholesale gas and electricity costs will be the other major factor determining the level of the cap, which will be reviewed by Ofgem every six months.

Mrs May sought to distance herself from Ed Miliband's 2013 proposal for a price freeze. "Crucially, it will be possible for that cap to move, and the independent regulator will set it," she said.

FACT CHECKER

The prime minister says that the energy price cap will cut bills.

Energy firms, along with some price comparison websites, say the cap will stifle competition and serve to push prices up. In reality, the picture is a little more complicated (Raphael Hogarth writes).

About two thirds of customers are on "standard variable tariffs" (SVT). These are the rates the companies charge by default if the consumer has not chosen a specific energy plan. Households on SVTs tend to pay more than consumers who have selected a fixed-rate deal.

The Conservatives want to allow Ofgem to cap the price of electricity for customers on standard variable tariffs, subject to review every six months. So in the short term, prices would go down for any SVT customer paying more than the cap.

Theresa May says 17 million households will benefit, some to the tune of £100 per year. This claim is hard to back up before the detail of the promise emerges. If energy companies see their revenue hit by the SVT cap, it is likely that they will stop offering some of their discounted fixed rate tariffs to make up lost income.

In fact no customers are guaranteed a price fall, or even freeze. If the wholesale price rises, Ofgem will raise its cap.

Ofgem would, however, be "making sure that there are not these sudden and unexpected and significant hikes in prices". The former Labour leader responded that the Conservative plan was a "price con, not a price cap".

Last night it emerged that Lord Glasman, a former adviser to Mr Miliband, met Nick Timothy, Mrs May's joint chief of staff, earlier this year and discussed energy policy, among other issues. Campaign sources said energy policy had already been determined by this point and the peer made no difference to this week's announcement. Mrs May's team signalled that they would tackle the issue in the autumn.

Energy suppliers, switching sites and right-leaning think tanks heaped criticism on the Conservative plan, warning that it would increase prices for customers who shop around for deals and deter investment.

Greg Clark, the business secretary, also faced criticism after admitting that he had never bothered attempting to switch supplier because he believed it was "quite a hassle to do so".

Martin Lewis, head of the Money Saving Expert website, called the comment "disgraceful" and said that it should "probably disqualify him from being energy minister".

The Big Six energy suppliers are expected to respond to a squeeze on their standard tariff profits by stopping cheap fixed-price deals.

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Iain Martin, Thunderer, page 24
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First Gent is no style slouch

His wife wears a lucky tartan suit for tough days in the office; could a gingham shirt be the old faithful of Philip May's wardrobe? Expect similar blue checked styles to sell out in M&S's Blue Harbour section overnight (Harriet Walker writes).

The First Gent, 59, appeared on *The One Show* last night in a slim-fitting black blazer. His legs were encased in navy chinos; a pair of tan leather brogues could just be glimpsed under the coffee table — but there was no leopard print in sight.

When questioned about his own sartorial soft spot, Mr May replied, "jackets and stuff — quite normal, really", thereby confirming his status as red-blooded male in the eyes of the electorate.

Although his open-collared, tie-free look had something of the weekend about it, there

Philip May wears similar off-duty looks at home with his wife

were none of the usual politician-in-the-wild leisurewear gaffes here. Mr May might be on bin duty at home, as he told the presenters Matt Baker and Alex Jones, but he's no slouch when it comes to off-duty dressing.

His preppy but relaxed ensemble was a canny choice: not so buttoned up as to appear fusty, but not so casual as to tick the dreaded "embarrassing uncle" box. It was topped off with a pair of every hipster's favourite "squoval" shaped tortoiseshell spectacles, although the truly fashionable are now wearing Dennis Thatcher's favoured half-frame style again.

This Atticus Finch-at-a-farmers-market look lent Mr May an air of quiet authority, something many men of a certain age find in stonewash jeans. Thankfully, he was not Jeremy Clarkson, nor was he a track-suited Jeremy Corbyn in his approach. In fact, the outfit was not dissimilar to the one he was photographed wearing alongside his wife for the pages of *American Vogue* last month. As his wife knows to her cost, he'll need to be careful about repeat-wears for the rest of the campaign now that every fashion editor is scrutinising his choices.



about crisis in military funding



May reveals baby blunder on primetime

Francis Elliott Political Editor

Theresa May's mother-in-law was left disappointed after a newspaper falsely claimed she had just had a baby, the prime minister revealed last night.

Mrs May volunteered the anecdote as part of a discussion on fake news in a joint interview with her husband, Philip, on the BBC's *One Show*.

"Way back when I was wanting to be selected for a seat, one of the newspapers reported I was going to have trouble being selected to fight a seat as a Conservative candidate because of my new baby," she said. "We didn't think any more of it until that afternoon, my mother-in-law rang."

Mr May said: "My mum rang. She thought perhaps there was something we hadn't told her."

Mrs May, who has spoken publicly about her and Philip's regret at not being able to have children, said: "She was disappointed." He also revealed that his wife had first harboured ambitions to become prime minister after becoming "well established" in the shadow cabinet.

In a discussion about her fashion sense the prime minister said she had met a "young woman" in the Commons who told her she had been inspired to become involved in politics by her shoes.

Mr May was asked about the prime minister's reputation as a "bloody difficult woman". He said there was "give and take in every marriage" but acknowledged that his room for manoeuvre in negotiations with his wife was limited.

"I get to decide when I take the bins out, not if I take the bins out," he said.

Ukip exodus will be crucial, says pollster

Sam Coates Deputy Political Editor

Theresa May's electoral success will be determined by the scale of Ukip's collapse rather than the performance of Jeremy Corbyn, a leading pollster says.

The Liberal Democrats could also emerge from the general election with fewer than the nine seats they had, according to Stephen Fisher from the University of Oxford.

Professor Fisher, who works on the team that produces the BBC, ITV and Sky exit poll, says that an 11-point lead for the Tories, which under uniform calculations would result in a 26-seat majority, could result in a much more substantial advantage for Mrs May on polling day.

He makes clear that while Labour's campaign will play a role in determining the result on June 8, the flood of Ukip voters returning to the Conservatives is a more critical factor.

At the local elections last week, the average Ukip vote in places where it fielded a candidate in both 2013 and in 2017 went from 29 per cent to 8 per cent in the 523 wards sampled by the BBC.

Approximately half of the Ukip 2013 vote has now gone to the Conservatives, with even more abandoning Ukip in seats that voted to remain in the EU or where there is low unemployment.

Incumbent Labour candidates in the West Midlands facing Tory opponents in second place are particularly worried about the sharp drop in Ukip support, believing that the results of Paul Nuttall's party in the local elections make far more seats vulnerable.

One Labour source said vulnerable seats included Dudley North, which was held by Ian Austin in 2015 with a 4,181 majority but 9,113 Ukip votes; Wolverhampton North East, held by Emma Reynolds with a 5,495 majority and 6,524 Ukip votes; Walsall South, which has Valerie Vaz defending a 6,007 majority with 6,540 Ukip votes last time; and West Bromwich West, where Labour's Adrian Bailey had a majority of 7,442 and Ukip took 8,836 votes. West Bromwich West is the 117th Conservative target seat by majority, meaning that Mrs May would be destined for a landslide if this seat was won.

The source said there were also signs of increased Tory activity in West Bromwich East, Tom Watson's seat, although they were confident the 9,470 majority would not completely erode even if the 7,949 Ukip votes disappeared to the Tories.

The Liberal Democrats could also lose seats, according to Professor Fisher. "Without either a big boost in overall support or a much stronger pattern of better performance in their areas of traditional strength, the Liberal Democrats could well end up making little or no gains at the general election," he says. "They may even end up losing seats, as the uniform swing projections from current polls suggest."

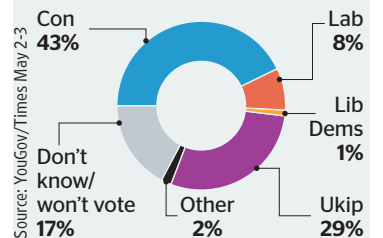
"To hold on to seats under first past the post, it is not enough to maintain your share of the vote, you need to make sure it does not fall further behind that of your main competitor."

Matthew Goodwin, a senior Fellow at Chatham House, said that many Ukip ideas were now Conservative policy.

Writing for the *Times* Red Box site, he said: "It is no secret that since becoming

Flight on the right

Where do 2015 Ukip voters go in a general election now?



Analysis

The main story of last week's local elections is clear. The Tories won lots more seats, and so they are likely to win the general election. But some of the lesser known details in the results provide further clues (Stephen Fisher writes).

Most important here is the collapse of Ukip. What is significant for next month's contest is the extent to which their vote dropped across a wide range of English county electoral divisions, which they fought in 2013 and again last week. Among the 523 divisions for which the BBC collected results, the Ukip vote dropped from an average of 29 per cent to 8 per cent.

Although many Ukip voters in 2013 and 2015 came from Labour, the polls have been consistently telling us that there is essentially only one place former Ukip voters are now going and that is to the Conservatives.

Many of the seats that Labour is defending had big Ukip votes in 2015. If half of each constituency's Ukip vote goes to the Conservatives, that would be enough to deliver the party an extra ten seats from Labour compared with traditional uniform change projections. If, as some polls suggest, the votes going from Ukip to the Tories flow at a rate greater than this, then the damage to Labour will be still worse.

David Cameron won his majority by taking Liberal Democrat seats. Theresa May is hoping to win her landslide thanks to Ukip votes.

Stephen Fisher is associate professor in political sociology at the University of Oxford

Well-heeled power couple dodge potholes around the chat show sofa

Patrick Kidd
Political Sketch

There was a moment at the end of their grilling on *The One Show* when it could have gone disastrously wrong. Theresa and Philip May had swatted aside questions about their relationship — "stable, very stable," Mrs May said, always on message — when Alex Jones, the Paxman of sofa-based suppertime chat, asked Mr May for his version of his wife's shoe obsession.

Such questions are like potholes to the unwary. No matter how shallow and unthreatening they seem, if you go at them with too much enthusiasm they can give you a costly prang. Many a man, given a chance to talk about his interests, would bore for England. Mrs May shot her husband a warning glare. "Careful now, Philip," it said.

Fortunately, he had been well trained. Or perhaps he is just naturally dull. "I quite like, sort of, ties," he said. "And jackets," he added, realising that he wasn't

actually wearing a tie with his gingham shirt at that moment. "Stuff like that." Boo.

The prime minister had handled the shoe question comfortably. As the camera zoomed in on her footwear and a TV screen showed a selection of shoes in case the audience hadn't quite grasped the nuance of the question, she beamed and told a story about how a woman in a lift had once told her that she'd been inspired to get involved in politics because of Mrs May's shoes.

Thus the Mays survived their brush with live family entertainment. They came across as a pleasant, normal middle-aged couple. If you had no interest in politics you might have assumed that they were a couple of actors from *The Archers*.

Matt Baker began with a question about the division of household chores. "I take the bins out," Mr May said. "There are boy jobs and girl jobs," his wife added, implying that boys sort out the recycling and stack the dishwasher while girls cut school budgets and bomb Syria.

Jones then turned the discussion on to Europe. "We're not leaving Eurovision, are we?" she asked.

Since Israel and Australia compete in the song contest that might be stretching the interpretation of what Britain voted for in the referendum farther than even Mrs May is happy to go and the prime minister quickly gave reassurance. "No, we're not," she said. "But in the current circumstances, I'm not sure how many votes we'll get." A joke, a bona fide May joke!

Then back to the personal stuff. A discussion on fake news was deftly turned by Mrs May, almost as if she had planned it, into a tale about how, when she was a candidate, someone had wrongly reported that she was expecting a baby, even though they were unable to. Another important piece of the May back story ticked off.

Perhaps the clincher, as far as Brand May goes, came when asked about their first meeting at Oxford. As Mrs May nodded warily, her husband leapt in. "I thought: what a lovely girl," he said. Then, suddenly grabbing her hands, he added: "And she still is!" Job done. Back at Tory HQ, minions began to brief out the key message. "This is a strong and stable marriage..."

News Election 2017



The Labour leader launches his party's campaign in Manchester, pledging to wage war on tax cheats and transform Britain into an economy "run for the many, not the few". During the day he also appeared

Corbyn to tax business and spend

Nicola Woolcock

Education Correspondent

Lucy Fisher, Rosemary Bennett

Labour will make multibillion-pound education pledges today, paid for by raising corporation tax by a third, after Jeremy Corbyn said that he would target "tax cheats, rip-off bosses and greedy bankers".

Mr Corbyn is due to announce a series of measures for all age groups, including class sizes smaller than 30 for all infant children and free school meals for primary school children.

The measures include a real-terms increase in funding for schools under a "transformational plan to invest in a national education service".

He will also promise an education maintenance allowance for college students and grants for university students as well as free, lifelong further education. An additional pledge to spend £21 billion on capital funding for schools brings the total cost of the policies to more than £30 billion.

Corporation tax is 19 per cent but the Tories have vowed to reduce it to 17 per cent, lower than in many western and developed countries.

Labour will say today that the tax will rise to 21 per cent in 2018-19, 24 per cent in 2019-20 and 26 per cent in 2020-21 if it wins power. The party has previously pledged to reverse cuts to the tax, which was 28 per cent in 2010.

A Labour spokesman said that the plans, minus the capital spending, would be paid for with £20 billion raised from the corporation tax rises plus £1 billion from VAT on independent school fees. Labour did not set out how the capital spending would be funded.

The party has promised numerous times to pay for new policies using the tax on business. Health, social care and women's pensions have all recently been named as beneficiaries from the same source of funding.

Mr Corbyn told activists yesterday

Labour's policies

- Levy a higher rate of income tax on earners with salaries of £80,000 and above. Retain the current standard rate of VAT, national insurance and income tax rates for earners below that threshold.

- Scrap hospital car parking charges in England, funded by increasing the insurance premium tax on private healthcare plans.

- Create 10,000 new police officer roles, funded by reversing cuts to capital gains tax.

- Introduce bank holidays on patron saint days of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

- Lift the 1 per cent cap on pay rises for NHS staff, funded by reversing cuts to corporation tax.

- Keep the pensions triple lock.

- Renationalise rail and "extend social democratic control" over the energy sector.

- Build one million new homes, including half a million council and housing association homes, by 2022.

that his mission was to transform Britain, saying "we have four weeks to take our wealth back and four weeks to show what kind of country we are", as he formally launched Labour's campaign.

Repeating his argument that the economy was "rigged" against ordinary people, he said that a Labour government would take action against asset strippers, tax evaders and those who "ripped off workers and consumers".

Mr Corbyn launched his attack on "crooked financiers" in a venue owned

by the Peel Group, previously criticised by Labour's Dame Margaret Hodge for not paying "their fair share" of corporation tax. The group denied the charge laid by Ms Hodge when she chaired the public accounts committee.

Mr Corbyn told the BBC that he was angry at levels of poverty and inequality in the country, a feeling that he believed was shared by the public. "They are very angry. They see the growth of the super-rich and very wealthy corporations and they see their communities left behind. Their anger is palpable and I think we have to address that."

The Labour leader will focus on education today, saying: "People of all ages are being held back by a lack of funding for education, and this in turn is holding back the economy."

Labour's plans include spending £5.66 billion on a real-terms increase in school funding by the end of the parliament, £21 billion on school buildings and about £800 million on free school meals for all primary children. At present all pupils in the first three years of primary school get free meals.

A row erupted over remarks Mr Corbyn made indicating that he would carry on as Labour leader regardless of the election result. "I was elected leader of this party and I'll stay leader of this party," he said on Monday. Asked yesterday about what he had said to BuzzFeed News, he claimed: "No, I told them I would carry on as leader because we'll have won the election by then." The website released an audio recording of the interview confirming its report.

● Campaigners against grammar schools, including the author Michael Morpurgo, have launched a crowdfunding appeal to finance their opposition to Conservative plans for more selective schools. The author of *War Horse*, who failed the 11-plus, has been joined by fellow authors Michael Rosen and Stella Duffy, who say that academic selection is highly divisive.

Leading article, page 27

Tide is high for Tories along the Golden Mile

ELECTION TOUR
BLACKPOOL

Robert Crampton

At the risk of getting repetitive, things looked no better for Jeremy Corbyn in Blackpool yesterday than they did in Middlesbrough on Monday or Hull or Sunday. With the caveat that this variety of research is strictly anecdotal, the fact is I interviewed a round dozen voters in the warming sunshine along the Golden Mile and didn't locate a single one planning to vote Labour. Not one in what has long been and still is acknowledged as the favoured leisure capital for the hard-pressed working classes of Lancashire, west Yorkshire and beyond. Not a lot of pleasure for Labour on this beach, that's for sure.

My round dozen's stated political view ran thus: a fair few of them conformed to what I'm coming to recognise, up here in the north at least, as a classic 2017 pattern of historically Labour/recently Ukip/possibly near-future Tory; another significant cohort cleaved to the equally familiar "I'm not interested, I probably won't bother" party; the



Labour voters were hard to find in

remainder were consistent Tories who see no reason to change.

In the nature of the place, even in early May, you have to trawl around to find people in Blackpool actually registered to vote here. Christopher and Barbara Forrester, for instance, enjoying the sun on the prom, are on holiday from Sheffield. Which simply means, in the context of this poll, one sitting Labour MP as opposed to another should have cause for concern. "We've always voted Labour," Mrs Forrester tells me. "Except we voted Ukip last time. We'll probably go Tory this time — it's that or Corbyn."

Mr and Mrs Forrester have been married 57 years. He used to be a steelworker, she was a cleaner. They have three daughters, all living in Sheffield, all recent Ukip voters, all planning to vote Conservative. "Labour are usually very good, but they've lost their way," Mr Forrester, 80, explains. "Corbyn doesn't get

ANDREW YATES/REUTERS; TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE

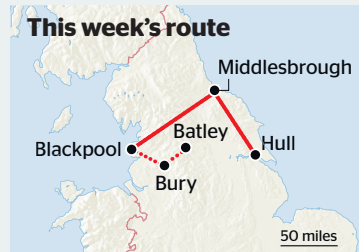


to backtrack on comments made on Monday that he would not stand down as leader in the event of a Labour defeat

£30bn on education



the north's famous capital of leisure



“He needs to have a shave,” adds Mrs Forrester. They both voted Leave in the referendum last year. “Too many immigrants,” says Mr Forrester, before ruefully admitting he came over from his native Dublin aged 15.

Just along from the Tower, Tracy Brown, 45, selling doughnuts and ice cream in Something Sweet, warns me she doesn't know anything about politics ... and is totally correct. Paul Stamford, 35, an unemployed plasterer still in

town six years after moving from Skegness, tells me: “I've always been Labour but I'm gonna go Tory this time. I like Jeremy Corbyn, but this woman at the moment seems to be doing OK. She's got good leadership shoulders.”

My dad was born in Blackpool. My granddad was a teacher at the grammar school. Way back when, this place, despite its party town reputation, had a certain gentility. Then, 20 years ago, it went downhill, all squalor and smack and undesirables taking advantage of cheap DSS housing. Now, however, it's having a modest revival. Only the regular visitor may notice — there are still plenty of Poundlands and We Buy Gold stores — but as things look up, I suspect Blackpool is returning to its Tory roots. Unlike other big northern conurbations, it's never been solid Labour.

Lee Griffin, 50, a self-employed caterer, gave up on Labour 20 years ago. “I switched to Tory and I'll stick with them.” Geoff Pilkington, 69, owner of Roberts' Rock & Ices, has “always voted Tory. Theresa May is a strong stateswoman. I feel safe with her.” Down on the beach, Jake Radford, 40, has brought his donkeys out. “I've always been Conservative. Theresa May seems firm in her beliefs.”

Mr Radford's employees — Daisy, Dolly, Molly et al — retire at 20 to a sanctuary in Devon. The way things are looking, the Labour leader might want to join them. Everyone I spoke to in Blackpool knows what is going to happen. Ironically, only Leanora Petulengro, clairvoyant to the stars, declined to share a prediction with me. Which is to say, she wanted a tanner for the privilege. I didn't feel the need to spend the cash.

Leader refuses to commit over Brexit

Lucy Fisher
Senior Political Correspondent

Jeremy Corbyn refused six times to say whether Britain would definitely leave the EU if he were elected prime minister next month.

The Labour leader was asked repeatedly by the BBC if he would commit to taking the UK out of the bloc even if there was a bad deal on the table.

He expressed confidence that he would negotiate a good deal, but declined to answer the question outright. Mr Corbyn said earlier during Labour's formal campaign launch that the election was “not about Brexit itself”.

Addressing party supporters in Manchester, he said: “That issue has been settled. The question now is what sort of Brexit do we want.” The task now was to act in the national interest, he said, rather than show “who can be toughest with Brussels”.

David Davis, the Brexit secretary, criticised Mr Corbyn as incoherent and said: “This morning he said he was settled on leaving the EU — this afternoon he can't say whether he will do it.”

Mr Corbyn's aides said “Brexit is settled” and that if he became prime minister “we will leave the EU”.

Meanwhile a row broke out over the selection of Daniel Carden, an adviser to the Unite union's general secretary Len McCluskey, as Labour's candidate for the ultra-safe seat of Liverpool Walton. The party branch's secretary, Ben Williams, threatened to resign amid claims that Mr Carden had been parachuted into the seat where he was largely unknown to local party figures.

RED BOX ELECTION COUNTDOWN

MATT CHORLEY

Tensions are rising among TV talent amid talk of Theresa May's spinners demanding to know questions before deciding if they can be asked. At some events journalists aren't allowed to hold the microphone in case they point out the PM has just said “strong and stable leadership” regardless of the question.

Celebrity news

The stars are coming out for Labour. The comedian and actor Rob Delaney is trying to get people to vote “Labour even tho they don't like Corbyn”. His biggest show: *Catastrophe*. Mr Corbyn was introduced at his launch yesterday by Julie Hesmondhalgh, who has just finished an acclaimed role in *Broadchurch*, a series best known for a dramatic fall off the edge of a cliff.

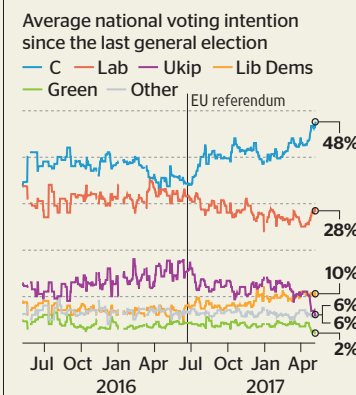
Rescue mission

Tim Farron used a trip to Burnham-on-Sea yesterday to board a rescue hovercraft. Noisy, full of hot air, going round in circles without achieving lift-off, Mr Farron is leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Aggressive alliance

The realignment of the left isn't going according to plan. Vince Cable was caught saying that he would vote Labour in some seats, to the fury of the local Liberal Democrat candidate. Three Labour members who offered to back a National Health Action candidate have been suspended by their party. Now Caroline Lucas, co-leader of the Greens, has accused Labour of being “shameful and short-sighted” for not helping her out more.

Poll of polls



Sign up for your morning briefing at www.thetimes.co.uk/redbox/signup



Close inspection reveals that only George Hunter's legs made it into Kate Hoey's picture of the schools event. He was there, right, with fellow Lib Dem Sarah Olney

Off with his head: Hoey poll rival legs it from photograph

Henry Zeffman Political Reporter

Plenty of election candidates have tried to question their rivals' records. Kate Hoey has gone further by airbrushing her Liberal Democrat opponent out of a photograph — although she forgot to delete his legs.

Ms Hoey, who is seeking re-election for Labour in Vauxhall, tweeted an image of a school event yesterday in which politicians from various parties pledged to improve air quality.

Ms Hoey, 70, was shown at the front of the stage making a speech. In the back row next to a partially hidden Sarah Olney, 39, the Richmond Park Liberal Democrat candidate, stood a pair of legs, apparently with no torso or head.

George Turner, the Liberal Democrat candidate for Vauxhall to whom the legs belonged, said the photo-

shopping was farcical and “slightly Stalinist”. Ms Hoey, who was at odds with most of her inner-London seat over her support for Brexit, insisted that she had done “nothing illegal”. She said her campaign team had decided to excise Mr Turner from the photo because he was wearing a yellow Lib Dem rosette.

“We cropped it, apparently we left his legs in,” she said. “I cannot believe the Liberal Democrats have got nothing else to do. The children organised this protest about pollution ... I was there as the local candidate. There were no other candidates wearing rosettes except the Lib Dems. Why should I, on my personal Twitter, have them on?”

Mr Turner, 34, said: “I saw Kate tweeted and I thought it was a bit strange as I remembered standing on stage next to Sarah Olney. I was thinking ‘Did I move?’ but all the time Kate spoke I was stood next to Sarah.”

SWNS; DAVID CHARLES/PA



The boats on the Splash Canyon ride hold six people but do not have seatbelts

Schoolgirl, 11, dies after fall from theme park water ride

Neil Johnston, David Brown

An 11-year-old girl was killed yesterday after falling from a ride during a school trip to a theme park.

The girl fell into the water on the Splash Canyon ride at Drayton Manor Park in Tamworth, Staffordshire. She was flown to Birmingham Children's Hospital with serious injuries and died shortly after arrival.

There was speculation that the girl,



Emergency services were on the scene quickly at Drayton Manor Park

screaming from the ride's entrance at 2.25pm. Graham Johnstone, 40, said that he realised something was wrong when park staff rushed over to the ride and turned people away. "It was awful. Somebody said a little child had drowned," he said. "The emergency services were on the scene so quickly."

Fiona Fletcher, 28, from Burton upon Trent, who was at the park with her two children, aged two and three, said that she saw park staff with "tears running down their faces".

The ride, which opened in 1993, has up to 21 boats, each with space for six people. They are carried around the course by a strong current and occupants are drenched in water at several points.

George Bryan, director of the 280-acre theme park founded by his family in 1949, was visibly shaken as he said: "Our staff were alerted that an 11-year-old girl had entered the water. Trained park staff were immediately on the scene attending to the patient. We are shocked and devastated and our thoughts are with her family at this tremendously difficult time."

Some visitors claimed yesterday that there had been recent faults on Splash Canyon. Oonagh Law wrote on the park's Facebook page: "Should have checked this ride Sunday. The carriages were getting stuck when we were on it."

Ann Bowyer, 37, said that the ride broke down a fortnight ago when she was visiting with her husband, two sons and two younger sisters. "The ride had stopped and the turntables the boats sit on were not moving," she said. The claims on the park's Facebook page were not confirmed.

David Bromilow, Drayton Manor's operations manager, said: "The health and safety of our visitors is of paramount importance. All of our rides comply with health and safety requirements for safe operation, maintenance and inspection processes. Each ride has specific risk assessments to ensure that these processes are current."

Last night the school said that it was liaising with the relevant authorities and asked for the school community to be given time to grieve. It added: "Please be assured that the safety and wellbeing of all of our pupils is a priority."

The park said that it would be closed today as a mark of respect.

Dangerous playgrounds

Alton Towers, Staffordshire

30 people were stuck on a rollercoaster in September last year. Five people were seriously injured in a collision on the Smiler rollercoaster in June 2015

Gulliver's World, Warrington Salma Saleem, 15, fell 30ft to her death from a ferris wheel in July 2002

Lightwater Valley theme park, Ripon Gemma Savage, 20, a Durham University student, died when two cars collided on the Treetop Twister in June 2001

Ocean Beach, Rhyl Four people were injured when a car came off a track in July 2005

Oakwood Theme Park, Tenby Hayley Williams, 16, fell to her death from the Hydro ride in 2004

Paultons Park, Hampshire 20 people were led to safety after a rollercoaster broke down just a week after opening in May last year

who went to Jameah Girls' Academy, an Islamic school in Leicester, was thrown into the water after standing up in one of the ride's boats, which do not have seatbelts.

Health and safety officials will today continue their investigations into the incident, which shut down the theme park and zoo yesterday.

The Splash Canyon is open to anyone over 3ft tall but those under 3ft 6in must be accompanied by an adult. Visitors described how they heard

Jewish shop 'threatened by man with a meat cleaver'

Katie Gibbons

A man was arrested after a kosher shopkeeper and two children were threatened with a large knife and a meat cleaver yesterday.

Witnesses said that they saw a man aged in his sixties enter a Jewish grocery shop in east London, brandishing the cleaver and shouting: "Where is the boss? I will kill him."

When told that the owner was not there, the man allegedly ran outside towards two Jewish girls aged 8 and 14. He was heard shouting: "You Jews run away from here before I kill you."

Witnesses said they saw the man, described as white, enter a block of flats followed by members of the Stamford Hill Shomrim, a volunteer Jewish neighbourhood watch group. They called for help.

Armed police entered the block of flats and arrested a suspect. Chaim

Hochauer, a supervisor at Stamford Hill Shomrim, said: "Just after 6pm, Shomrim in Stamford Hill responded to reports of a male making threats and brandishing a meat cleaver and a large knife on Upper Clapton Road in Hackney."

"Shomrim contained the area where the suspect had fled and liaised with local and armed police who cordoned off the area."

A Metropolitan Police spokesman confirmed that a 61-year-old man had been arrested on suspicion of affray and possessing an offensive weapon.

Gideon Falter, chairman of the Campaign Against Antisemitism, said: "This is an extremely frightening incident and it is very fortunate that there are no injuries reported. We commend Stamford Hill Shomrim and the Metropolitan Police Service for their bravery in rushing to the scene to protect the public."

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Sitting pretty Competitors warm up for the Land Rover International Driving Grand Prix, part of the Royal Windsor Horse Show which starts today and runs until Sunday

Bones reveal we shared planet with primitive cousins 240,000 years ago

Tom Whipple Science Editor
Aislinn Laing Johannesburg

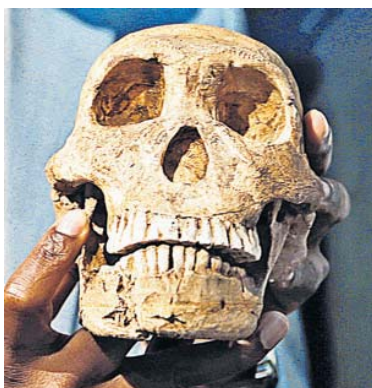
Did they meet? Beneath the South African sun, did our ancestors come across a strange humanlike tribe with small skulls and an unusual method of burying the dead? Did they live alongside each other and even breed?

These are the tantalising questions occasioned by the discovery that a new species of human ancestor, identified from bones found in a hidden cave, lived so recently that it may have overlapped with *Homo sapiens*.

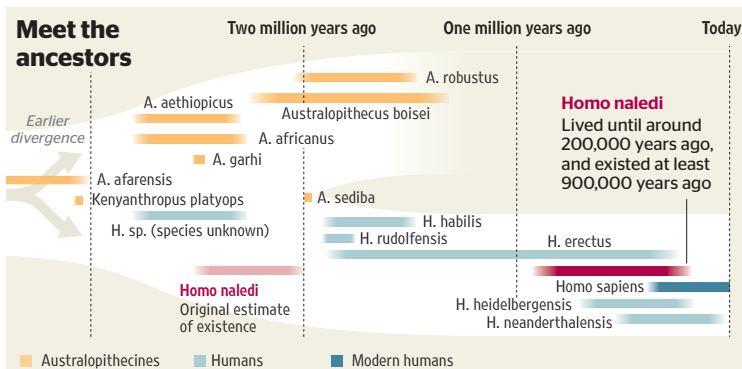
The discovery of *Homo naledi* at a site about 30 miles northwest of Johannesburg was one of the most sensational in modern palaeoanthropology. At the back of a complex cave system in the Cradle of Humankind world heritage site, through an opening so narrow you would have to hold one arm above your head to fit your shoulders through, caverns happened upon the graveyard of a species never before seen.

The 1,500 bone fragments making up at least 15 skeletons were difficult to date. Some features, such as the wrists and hands, were similar to those in modern humans, while the curved, tree-gripping fingers and smaller brain seemed more primitive. When the find was revealed 18 months ago, the best guess dated them to between two and three million years ago.

Now a complex dating process has found that this estimate was out by a factor of ten. A suite of techniques, each performed by laboratories working independently from each other, looked at the sedimentation in the caves, tooth enamel and other key markers, and



Remains of *Homo naledi* discovered near Johannesburg are between 335,000 and 236,000 years old – which overlaps with humans' arrival



found that the bones were about 335,000 years old, and may be as recent as 236,000 years old.

This means that the earliest humans in Africa, who were evolving during this period, may not have been alone. Scientists believe *Homo naledi* could have thrived for hundreds of thou-

sands of years before we came on the scene, and like species such as Neanderthals, could even live on in our DNA as a result of interbreeding.

"It's clear the species comes from deep time but its genus comes down through the generations very close to us," said Lee Berger, of the University of

the Witwatersrand, whose team discovered the bones. "It is very possible that *Homo naledi*, this small-brained non-human species, actually encountered *Homo sapiens*."

One of the more intriguing and controversial theories about *Homo naledi* posits that the chamber where its bones were found was a ritual burial site.

Professor Berger believes that the dead were pushed through the tiny opening as part of a funeral ceremony, which would explain how so many bones ended up in the same cave. This theory received a boost from another excavation in a neighbouring chamber, which found the same pattern of bones.

Professor John Hawks, an anthropologist from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who led the excavation of the second cave, said that together the discoveries called into question science's assumptions about evolution.

"We thought that humans were invincible, that as we evolved we were crowding out every possible competitor and that the story was a simple one, where you have a lineage become aggressively more humanlike with bigger and bigger brains and more sophisticated behaviour," he said.

"Now the best-represented and best-dated fossil assemblage in this time period in Africa is *Homo naledi*."

"We have to answer how these hominid populations may have interacted with each other, what role they may have had in our own origins, where our ancestors fit into this diverse and potentially very competitive environment. It's an exciting time and we expect there will be many more discoveries in the years to come."

Mother forced children to use wheelchairs

Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

A mother forced her two able-bodied children to use wheelchairs and to take medicine unnecessarily after inventing a series of illnesses, a family court judge has said.

Judge Vera Mayer raised concerns about the case in rulings published after private hearings at a family court in Barnet, north London. She accused a social worker assigned to the family of "alarming ineptitude".

The children, a nine-year-old boy and his seven-year-old sister, have not been identified but the judge said that Barnet council was the local authority involved. "The local authority neglected this case and this family, and the social worker, who was allocated for six years, demonstrated alarming ineptitude in the face of clear and obvious concerns expressed by many over a long period," the judge said.

"A number of opportunities to intervene and spare the children unnecessary medical intervention have been missed."

She said: "The mother fabricated and exaggerated symptoms in respect of both children. She has done this throughout the children's lives."

The children's father believed their mother's account.

The judge ruled that the children could no longer live with their parents and should go into foster care.

A psychiatrist said evidence suggested that the mother had mental health difficulties which led her to invent illness or become anxious about illnesses that did not exist, the judge reported.

Council fights elderly woman over £226 bill

Simon de Bruxelles

A great-grandmother whose car window was broken by a council grass cutter is facing a court battle over the £226 repair bill.

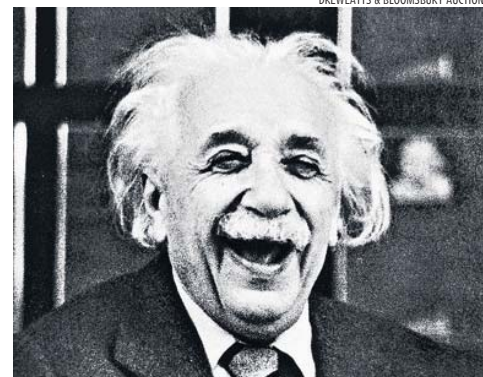
Rita Thomas, 89, is due to go to court after Bristol city council refused to accept liability for damage it admitted was caused by one of its machines. The council, which has to find savings of £104 million over the next five years, has employed a barrister to fight Mrs Thomas's claim.

Mrs Thomas's Volkswagen Up was parked on her drive in Westbury-on-Trym near Bristol last August when a stone shattered the rear window. The workman gave her his details and she submitted a claim to the council, which decided to fight it on the ground that its employee was not negligent.

Losing the case in court could cost her thousands. If she wins, taxpayers will be left to foot the bill. Mrs Thomas, a widow, could have claimed through her insurance but would have had to pay the excess.

Her son-in-law Richard Parsons, 63, a property consultant, said: "It is a matter of principle that the council should not be able to get away with damaging someone's property."

The case will be heard at Bristol county court this week. The city council said: "We have a robust claims system, designed to save local taxpayers money. We have chosen to defend this case because we don't believe we should pay claims when we've done nothing wrong."



Happy snaps Enal and Pet Shark by James Morgan; Albert Einstein at Princeton by Ruth Orkin; and Meg Ryan by Annie Liebowitz are among the highlights of a sale of photographs at Bloomsbury on May 18

Britain comes second in Europe for its 'nannying' rules on health

Bruno Waterfield Brussels

European countries have become more restrictive as public health "nannies" introduce ever more regulations or bans on alcohol, fizzy drinks, eating, e-cigarettes and tobacco, a report claims today.

A Nanny State Index compiled by the European Policy Centre, a free market think tank, rates Britain as the second most illiberal country after Finland because of restrictions and bans, often linked to EU regulations. Europe's most liberal nation is the Czech Republic, followed by Germany.

Most countries have seen a deterioration in their rankings due to the EU's Tobacco Products Directive, with rules that include bans on packets of ten cigarettes and the displacement of famous branding such as Gitanes or Gauloises by graphic health warnings.

As well as at the European level, national public health regulators are stepping in, with Belgium joining

Hungary, Finland and France to put a "sin tax" on sweet drinks. Ireland and Britain are preparing to join the club next year. Latvia and Lithuania have set a new precedent with alcohol-style bans on the sale of energy drinks to under-18s and France has banned free refills of fizzy drinks.

The report argues that taxes on products such as fizzy drinks that are regarded as unhealthy by regulators are regressive in terms of income distribution, with the costs falling most heavily on the poor. "Advertising bans restrict competition, raise prices and stifle innovation, and smoking bans lead to the closure of pubs and clubs," Christopher Snowden, the report's author and the head of lifestyle economics at the Institute of Economic Affairs, said. "Excessive regulation creates excessive bureaucracy and drains police resources."

The report highlights statistics showing that increased life expectancy is more closely linked to economic per-

State intervention

Finland Tax on sugary drinks, highest beer tax and alcohol duties. It has set a 2030 deadline to make the country tobacco free

UK Most draconian smoking bans, including on use of e-cigarettes, plain packaging and highest taxes on cigarettes, highest wine duty and second highest tax on alcohol

Ireland First country to ban smoking, plans for minimum pricing on alcohol and sales display bans, plans for sugar tax and highest alcohol tax

Hungary A "chips tax" on foods that are sweet, fatty or salty, illegal to place sugars or salt shakers on tables and plain packaging for cigarettes planned

formance and high per capita incomes than restrictions or bans on people's lifestyle choices.

"Health campaigners would do better to pursue economic growth than make doomed attempts to control the personal behaviour of the public through coercion," he said.

"Too many politicians seem to think that treating their citizens like children is a matter of national pride."

Public health officials dismissed the findings as overtaken by popular progressive regulations to protect people from passive smoking or self-harm.

"The idea that children should work in coal mines, as they did in the 19th century, is horrific," an EU official said. "Most people are coming to the view that allowing cigarette smoke pollution is equally horrible."

"The day when public smoking is banned in all of Europe will be a great achievement for public health. Most people support that. If public health is nannying then three cheers for it."

New licence for zoo where hundreds of animals died

Gabriella Swerling
Northern Correspondent

A scandal-hit zoo where almost 500 animals died and one of its keepers was mauled to death by a tiger was granted a new four-year licence yesterday.

South Lakes Safari Zoo in Cumbria was refused a renewal of its licence in March after inspectors raised concerns about its founder, David Gill, 55. That month a council report had revealed that 486 animals died between January 2013 and September 2016.

Among the dead was a decomposing monkey found behind a radiator, a jaguar that had chewed off its own paw and a tortoise that died after walking into an electric fence. In May 2013 Sarah McClay, a 24-year-old keeper, was mauled to death by a tiger.

In January the operation of the attraction was taken over by Cumbria Zoo Company—formed by staff—and has undergone a "change of culture".

Directors of the new company must meet a long list of conditions or risk breaching their new licence, granted by Barrow council subject to Mr Gill withdrawing his own licence appeal.

Animal welfare groups lamented the "disappointing" verdict yesterday. Maddy Taylor, campaigns officer at the Captive Animals' Protection Society, said that responsibility for past problems could not be "solely placed at the feet" of Mr Gill.

Inspectors had conceded there "might be some concern" that the present management team was similar to the previous one under Mr Gill.

Ms McClay's family said that Mr Gill no longer having a role in the zoo was "a step in the right direction".

Boy killed stepfather with one punch during row

Katie Gibbons

A British squash champion was killed with one punch after telling his teenage stepson: "You can't talk to your mum like that," a court heard.

Colin Payne, 54, collapsed after he was struck by Douglas Herridge, 17, at their home in Dartford, Kent. The boy's mother, Ina Herridge, witnessed the assault. Mr Herridge, now 18, denies murdering Mr Payne, a British Open



Colin Payne was a British over-50s squash champion

over-50s champion and a former professional player on the PSA World Tour. The teenager claims that he acted in self-defence, although Mrs Herridge,

originally from Finland, told detectives that Mr Payne was gentle and "would not even harm a fly".

The fatal punch was the climax of a long-running series of arguments between stepfather and stepson, Maidstone crown court was told.

Mr Herridge, the youngest of two sons, was left in "emotional turmoil" after his mother and father split up in 2011, the jury was told. Mrs Herridge met Mr Payne, a divorced father of two,

in February 2014 and moved in with him six months later. Her son moved out for 18 months but returned in the summer of 2015.

Mr Payne, who managed three bathroom stores, told his partner that he was frightened by his stepson's behaviour shortly before his death on November 16 last year, the court heard.

Mr Herridge denies murder and an alternative charge of manslaughter. The trial continues.

Highest-paid head teacher suspended over 'fraud'

Nicola Woolcock
Education Correspondent

The highest-earning head teacher in England has been suspended from his role over what are said to be allegations of fraud.

Sir Craig Tunstall — whose earnings including pension for the past academic year were £374,000 — was suspended by governors of the Gypsy Hill Federation of primary schools in south London. He was knighted for services to education in 2014 and is recognised by the Department for Education (DfE) as a national leader of education.

The governors confirmed that the suspension was pending an internal investigation undertaken with Lambeth council.

A source suggested that the investigation related to claims of fraud and the school stressed that there were no concerns relating to child protection.

In a letter to parents published this week on the federation's website, Sarah Wintle, the chairwoman of governors, confirmed his suspension.

She said: "While we do not normally

comment on individual employment matters, I feel it is important to share the following information with you.

"The executive head teacher, Sir Craig Tunstall, has recently been suspended from his role pending an internal investigation undertaken with Lambeth council.

"Please note that suspension is a neutral act, and is used to protect all parties whilst the investigation is underway and to ensure a fair process.

"While I appreciate that you may be concerned about the content of this letter, I would like to reassure parents that there are no concerns relating to child protection. Further I would like to reassure the school community that the provision of education will not be disrupted in any way."

As well as being executive head teacher of eight primary schools, Sir Craig, 46, describes himself as the chief executive designate of a secondary school. It was initially due to open this September, although these plans have been shelved indefinitely.

His salary outstrips that of the chief executive of Lambeth council, which

employs him. When his pay was revealed last year, it was defended by the federation, which said that he and his senior leaders had "gone through an amazing journey in each of our eight schools and two children's centres".

Sir Craig became head of Kingswood School in 2002. The school is rated outstanding by Ofsted and is the flagship school of the federation. Three of its other schools are deemed outstanding.

In 2011, he was brought in to turn around Oval primary school in Croydon but was sacked as head teacher on his second day after suspending seven children within hours. Infringements included wearing the wrong coat in the

playground and refusing to finish their school lunch. A five-year-old boy with special needs was suspended for failing to stand in line. He started work on a Thursday but was sacked by Lambeth council on the Friday afternoon. He remained in charge of the federation.

On the federation's website, Sir Craig writes: "We have received excellent support from the DfE,

Lambeth and Southwark local authorities with whom we work very closely, to expand a number of our primary school sites in order to meet huge local demand for places in our high performing schools.

"Our very high expectations are also non-negotiable across each of the schools. We have an exceptionally strong educational track record and receive visitors from both across the country and from across the world to see at first hand our work."



Sir Craig Tunstall
earned £374,000
in the past year

TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

A picture of indiscretion

Since there is an election on (you may have noticed) civil servants are bound by "purdah" rules not to comment on government policy. So when Simon Stevens, head of NHS England, attended a conference yesterday he told the audience that he was required to be dull — "deliberately, rather than accidentally". However, he got his point across subliminally by the use of a slide projector. When Stevens mentioned the Brexit negotiations, for instance, up popped Bruegel's *Tower of Babel* on a screen, while Andrew Lansley's NHS reforms were accompanied by some Jackson Pollocks. No one was sure why he began with *Whistler's Mother*, though. A nod to Theresa May?

Few politicians have as marvellous a name as the governor of Idaho, one Butch Otter, who is standing down in 2018. Four politicians have thrown their hat in the ring to succeed him but it is obvious who should win. For the sake of amusement, if nothing else, Idaho needs to get behind Raul Labrador.

GENTLEMAN JOURNALIST

George Osborne, the best-paid trainee on Fleet Street, is still not quite sure what some of his staff do. Introduced to the *Evening Standard's* art director, responsible for the look of the pages, Osborne assumed this was the successor to Brian Sewell and asked what he thought of the Hockney exhibition at the Tate. He probably thinks that the chief sub-editor is there to write pieces about the renewal of Trident.

Readers of The New York Times have been invited to discover why Britain voted to leave the EU by signing up for a six-day

visit to these shores billed as "Brexit means Brexit". For just \$6,000, they will see parliament, a Westminster pub, the Supreme Court, the Foreign Office and, in a daring dash across Zone 1, the City. Even Mrs May gets closer to ordinary people than that.

NICE TRY, BUT NO CIGAR

An Oxford tutor was walking past Blackwell's a few years ago when he saw a large crowd. "What's the fuss?" he asked a student, according to the writer Edward Enfield, who told this story at an *Oldie* lunch. "Monica Lewinsky is doing a book signing," he said, referring to the American intern who has gone down in White House history. "I thought it was a demonstration," the tutor replied at which the student looked overjoyed. "Really?" he said. "You think she'll give a demonstration?"

"Only one of the ten richest people in the UK is British: the Duke of Westminster," says Tom Watson, the Labour deputy leader, in a typical piece of envy politics. That's strange. I'm sure the Hinduja brothers, who are at No 1 in the Sunday Times Rich List, got British citizenship in 2000, allegedly because of their close connections to the Labour Party.

A STAB OF FEMINIST WIT

When Shirley Williams was a new MP in the 1960s, below, she and other women got attention from wandering hands in the division lobbies. Every time they voted, one man would give their bottoms a pinch. Rather than tell the whips, they got revenge by wearing their sharpest heels to vote. "Few things

hurt more than a stiletto driven into the foot," Williams says in Sophy Ridge's new book *The Women who Shaped Politics*. The next day, this man hobbled into the tea-room and was instantly surrounded by women showing mock concern. "What happened?" they asked. After a pause, he spluttered: "Gout!"

PATRICK KIDD



co op

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Hormone replacement therapy linked to deafness

Chris Smyth Health Editor

Hormone replacement therapy could increase women's risk of hearing loss by up to a fifth, the first study of its kind suggests.

The longer women used HRT the greater the risk of hearing problems, according to a US study which suggests deafness may need to be weighed alongside cancer as a possible drawback of menopause treatment.

About 20 per cent of the two million

women going through the menopause suffer symptoms such as hot flushes, headaches and loss of sex drive, which can be helped by HRT. Use of the therapy has more than halved, however, since studies a decade ago showed that it increased the risk of cancer.

In the latest study, Harvard researchers have used data on 81,000 women, of whom 19,000 reported hearing problems over two decades. They found that women who went through the menopause over the age of 50 were

10 per cent more likely to suffer problems than those who experienced it younger. Women taking HRT for less than two years were 10 per cent more likely to suffer hearing problems, rising to 21 per cent for those on it for more than a decade.

"These findings suggest that oral hormone therapy may have implications for hearing," they write in *Menopause: The Journal of the North American Menopause Society*.

How HRT might affect hearing is

unclear. One theory is that oestrogen might directly affect the inner ear, or perhaps disturb blood flow.

About one in ten menopausal women in Britain is thought to be on HRT and in 2015 GPs were urged to offer it to hundreds of thousands more. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence said that women were "suffering in silence" because doctors had been scared off HRT and women with gruelling symptoms should be helped to weigh up the risks themselves.

Smart bus can alter its route to avoid jams

Graeme Paton Transport Correspondent

The end of the traditional bus route was signalled yesterday with the launch of a "smart" service that will adjust journeys to avoid congestion.

A bus that uses real-time data about traffic and passenger demand to increase efficiency has begun trials in London. The "pop-up" service — backed by Transport for London — will initially run on a fixed two-mile circular route in the city centre. It will test technology that can count passengers and track road conditions.

Citymapper, the company running the buses, said that its ultimate aim is to offer routes that vary in response to demand and traffic. It will also use its smartphone app to tell passengers where to get off and — if necessary — continue their journeys using other forms of public transport.

It represents a further attempt to pull buses into the 21st century after a drop in passenger numbers.

According to the Department for Transport, the number of passenger journeys fell by 2.6 per cent across England in 2015-16 compared with a year earlier, continuing a near continuous seven-year decline. In London, numbers fell by 3 per cent in 2015-16, bucking a recent trend of rising use in the capital.

The decline has been blamed on a combination of increased traffic in town and city centres, a cut in subsidies by cash-strapped local authorities, and a rise in fares.

Yesterday, Citymapper trialled three "smart buses" on a route passing Blackfriars station, Somerset House and Waterloo station.

The 48-hour trial uses 30-seater buses with a smart display to show passengers where they are and which stops are next. The scheme also employs technology to count passengers on and off buses to assess demand and uses

traffic data to analyse levels of congestion and likely journey times.

The company, which already runs an app providing passengers with public transport options in 40 cities worldwide, insisted that the project would enable it to "rethink how buses and routes operate and how to make them more efficient".

Ultimately, it could use the technology to abandon the conventional bus route, with a number of fixed stops, in favour of alternative journeys that avoid traffic. A spokesman said the firm could either run its own buses or use the technology with an existing operator.

In a statement, the company said that buses "haven't evolved enough", adding: "They still roam around cities utilising old systems of operations and inefficient technology."

"If we're going to solve urgent problems of congestion and infrastructure, we need buses to improve, to operate smarter. In the era of smartphones we can have responsive buses that react to real-time needs."

Stephen Joseph, executive director of the Campaign for Better Transport, said the idea could represent the "comeback of the bus". "Everyone has been assuming that the future of urban transportation is Uber or car-sharing services," he said. "But this sort of thinking shows that dynamic bus services in relatively dense British towns and cities may be a better idea."

Michael Hurwitz, TfL's director of transport innovation, said: "We work closely with technology companies around the world to support innovation that could improve transport in London."

"We are very much open to new ideas and are actively engaging tech companies and innovators on some of the challenges facing the city. Citymapper have some very interesting ideas and we're in discussion with them about how they might work in London."



Riding high This paraglider made full use of the thermals on a bright morning yesterday on the downs overlooking Firle, East Sussex. Weather forecast, page 57

Boy, 15, arrested after medication makes teenagers sick

Kat Lay Health Correspondent

A 15-year-old boy has been arrested on suspicion of supplying Xanax after up to 20 teenagers were taken ill.

Some of the youths, aged 15 and 16 and from Salisbury, needed hospital treatment and others were simply monitored. All were recovering but Wiltshire police warned that the side-effects could last for several days.

Xanax, known as alprazolam in its generic form, is used to treat anxiety disorders. It is not recommended for use in children. The drug can cause cardiac and respiratory difficulties, slow down reactions and make users drowsy, lethargic and forgetful.

The teenagers, from more than one school, had been "deliberately risking their health", police said. They urged parents to speak to their children about

the dangers of taking prescription drugs intended for someone else.

Inspector Pete Sparrow said: "This drug is reported to be as addictive as heroin and has been linked to placing users at risk of significant harm and vulnerability. It is being sold through illegitimate sources at very low prices, making this attractive to young impressionable children. As a parent myself, I think it is my duty to talk to my children

on this subject and alert them to the risks and consequences."

A police spokeswoman said that both the community policing team and detectives had been involved in the investigation. She added: "This resulted in a 15-year-old local boy being arrested on suspicion of the supply of Class C drugs. The teenager was taken into custody for interview and was subsequently released under investigation."

Woman, 32, died after breast implant surgery

A woman who died after breast implant surgery had complained that she felt she had been "poisoned", an inquest was told.

Kandi du Cros, 32, from St Austell, died in the Royal Cornwall Hospital in January 2014 after developing a fever.

An inquest in Truro heard it was "probable" that the surgery at the private Duchy Hospital in Truro triggered a flare-up of a dormant autoimmune disorder, causing her to suffer multiple organ failure. David Hutchinson, a rheumatology specialist, said having the surgery "was not unreasonable" given the information available.

The inquest continues.

Greater risk of gout with a Western diet

Eating a western diet increases the risk of developing gout, a new study has found. Researchers from the US and Canada found that a high intake of the red meat, sugar, french fries and desserts found more often in a western diet led to an increase in the prevalence of the arthritis, where small crystals form around the joints. Data published in the *BMJ* from a 20-year study of 44,000 men aged between 40 and 75 was analysed and found that those who adhered to a diet rich in fruit and vegetables were less likely to develop gout.

Football coach faces further abuse charges

The former football coach Barry Bennell has been charged with a further 21 allegations of historical sexual assault against boys aged between 14 and 16, the Crown Prosecution Service said. The former Crewe Alexandra coach, 63, is now accused of 41 offences between 1980 and 1991 against eight male complainants. He has previously denied 20 child abuse offences during a hearing at Chester crown court and is due to appear before South Cheshire magistrates on May 17.

During his football career, Mr Bennell also worked as a coach for Stoke and Manchester City.

No return to Sun for suspended MacKenzie

Kelvin MacKenzie, the former editor of *The Sun*, is to leave the paper. The columnist was suspended after comparing the Everton footballer Ross Barkley to a gorilla. The paper apologised, saying it had been unaware of Barkley's Nigerian heritage, and Mr MacKenzie denied the piece was racist. *The Sun*, which is owned by News UK, parent company of *The Times*, said the columnist "remained suspended". However, it is understood that he is negotiating exit terms.

Dinosaur 'dragon' had wings but couldn't fly

Enormous fossil eggs found in central China have led to the naming of a new species of dinosaur. Known as *Beibellong sinensis* — "baby dragon from China" — the 8m-long animal had feathers, wings and a beak, but could not fly. Darla Zelenitsky, at the University of Calgary, told *Nature Communications* journal: "It looked like an overgrown cassowary. It would have been a sight to behold, a three-ton animal sitting on its nest of eggs."

Amazon calls the tune with launch of its own pop concerts

Will Humphries

Amazon left a trail of boarded-up bookshops and music retailers in its wake as it revolutionised the way we shop online. Now it has the live music industry in its sights.

The online giant has launched a live music business in the UK, running and promoting its own gigs exclusively for Amazon Prime customers in an attempt to attract more people to the premium subscription service.

Customers who pay £79 a year or £7.99 a month for Amazon Prime services, including online video and same-day delivery, will be able to buy tickets to exclusive London performances by artists such as Blondie, Alison Moyet and Katie Melua this summer.

The tickets for the events don't come cheap. A ticket to see Blondie perform at the Round Chapel in Hackney on May 23 will set you back £150.

However, the performances will also be filmed and made available later globally on Prime Video, Amazon's international film and TV service.

The launch of Prime Live Events is the latest initiative by Jeff Bezos, the billionaire founder of Amazon. His company began life as an online bookseller in 1995 and has morphed into a behemoth with interests in everything from groceries to space travel.

Hugh Fletcher, head of innovation at the Salmon, the digital consultancy, said the live music industry should be worried by the world's largest online retailer dipping a toe into its waters.

"It's just more evidence of Amazon's aggressive expansion into almost every touchpoint of customers' lives," Mr Fletcher said. "If you can own every touchpoint you own the data [around each purchase] and the future of what services you provide. They are both sinister and incredibly clever."

The industry body UK Music said that live music is worth close to £1 billion a year to the British economy.

To combat touts, Amazon is limiting tickets to two per customer and no physical tickets will be sent out. Photo ID will be required as proof of identity to gain entry and tickets won't be transferable or refundable, but can be purchased as a gift for someone else.

If the strategy is successful it could be expanded to other markets. Amazon



GUILLAUME SOUVANT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
The online retailer will sell tickets exclusively for its own concerts, featuring acts such as Katie Melua, left, Blondie and Alison Moyet, below

already has its own ticket agency, which started in the UK two years ago and is expected to be launched in the US soon.

Amazon is notoriously secretive about its business model but analysis by Salmon has found that an estimated 40 per cent of online spend in the UK is through the company. It is estimated that there are about 5 million Amazon Prime subscribers, with almost 4 million users of its video service.

The company has invested billions in film and TV shows, including *The Grand Tour*, the motoring show starring the former *Top Gear* presenters Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond.

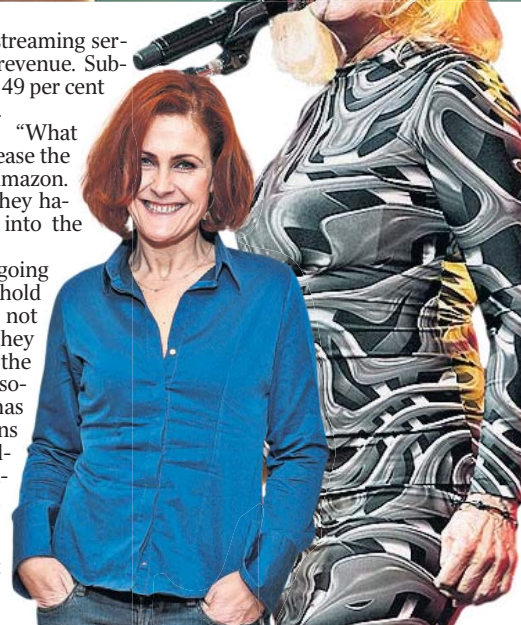
Globally, IHS Markit estimates that Amazon has about 80 million subscribers to Prime — almost 50 million of those in the US, its home market.

Shares in the company hit an all-time high last month after it posted results for the first three months of 2017 that beat all financial forecasts, driven large-

ly by its Prime media streaming services and advertising revenue. Subscription sales were up 49 per cent in a year to \$1.9 billion.

Mr Fletcher said: "What Prime has done is increase the amount we spend via Amazon. The amazing thing is they haven't even fully gone into the main retail sectors yet."

"They are kind of going into food and household products now but it's not that mature, so when they corner those markets the potential impact is absolutely huge, and that has massive repercussions for big brands and retailers. How are organisations going to retain a relationship with customers? Will everything just be bought through Amazon?"



Court orders Facebook to delete trolls' hate posts

David Charter Berlin

Facebook has been ordered to remove "hate postings" worldwide by an Austrian court in a legal victory for campaigners against online trolling.

The case was brought by Austria's Green Party over insults directed at its leader, but the verdict has international ramifications after the appeals court in Vienna ruled that the postings must be deleted across the social media platform, not simply blocked in Austria.

The case comes as national and EU legislators consider ways of forcing Facebook, Google, Twitter and others to quickly remove hate speech or incitement to violence from their platforms. Germany's cabinet approved a plan last month to fine social networks up to €50 million if they fail to rapidly remove postings that contravene national laws.

Facebook and its lawyers in Vienna declined to comment on the ruling, which was confirmed by a court spokesman. "Facebook must put up with the accusation that it is the world's biggest platform for hate and that it is doing nothing against this," Dieter Brosz, a Green MP, said.

Mark Zuckerberg, the Facebook chief executive, has said hate speech has no place on the platform and the company has published a policy paper on how it wants to combat false news.

The Austria Press Agency said that the decision arose from Facebook's appeal against a lower court ruling ordering it to delete the postings.

The appeals court strengthened that ruling when it said that Facebook must remove postings on an anonymous page against Eva Glawischnig, 48, as well as any verbatim repostings. It said that merely blocking them in Austria without deleting them for users abroad was not sufficient.

The court added that it was easy for Facebook to automate this process, but the company could not be expected to trawl through content to find posts that were similar, rather than identical, to ones already identified as hate speech.

The Greens want Facebook to pay damages and hope to get the ruling strengthened further at Austria's highest court.

Grandmother gave children hash cakes

Gabriella Swerling

A former teacher told children that she was a dinner lady and gave them cannabis biscuits which made them vomit.

Lesley Collins, 61, offered the four children the cakes from a knitted bag after meeting them in a pub in Grimsby when they went in to use the lavatory.

Collins, of Cleethorpes, admitted supplying cannabis on October 8. She was given a six-month suspended prison sentence and ordered to have ten days of rehabilitation. She said that she was "bewildered" by what she had done and was "so very sorry".

Jeremy Evans, for the prosecution, told Grimsby crown court that two girls and two boys — three aged 13 and one aged 12 — went into The Corporation Arms in Grimsby after 8.30pm and were seemingly introduced to Collins, who was behaving strangely.

She told them "I'm your nanna", and offered them cookies. "She kept telling the group that she was a dinner lady

and a grandmother," Mr Evans said. The two girls began eating the biscuits and were subsequently sick. One asked Collins what she had given them. The girl felt dizzy and sick and was taken to hospital. The other girl said that the biscuit "tasted sweet and disgusting at the same time". "She ate a small mouthful before throwing it away," Mr Evans



Lesley Collins said she was bewildered by her actions

said. "She was sick and was left with a shaky feeling."

One of the boys who ate a biscuit did not suffer any ill-effects. The other had possible traces of cannabis in his urine.

The children approached a police community support officer just before 8.40pm. Collins told police: "It's despi-

cable. I didn't know I had done it. I was drunk." A small amount of cannabis was seized from her home and bags of biscuits were found in a wheelie bin.

Nick Worsley, for the defence, said that Collins acted out of character and had no previous convictions. She had suffered mental health and depression problems and had taken to self-medicating with cannabis. She is a former teacher with a degree in fine art, who has taught people in prison and created various works of art for local organisations.

"Her career is destroyed," Mr Worsley said. "She did not know what was going on that evening. She accepts she supplied these hash cakes. She cooked up a batch of these things and she then took to eating one or two herself. It was not a case of loitering on a street corner trying to trap anyone into taking drugs."

"She had drunk four pints. The combination of prescription drugs and alcohol and, perhaps, cannabis has caused her to behave in this abnormal way."

Gays and bisexuals are more likely to suffer from anxiety

Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

Gay people are less happy than heterosexuals and report lower levels of wellbeing, figures have suggested.

People who are bisexual, in particular, have lower satisfaction with their lives and say they suffer from anxiety, according to the research.

Statisticians said the results may indicate that gay and bisexual people worry more about their health and jobs, which could be linked to discrimination, as well as their relationships.

Previous studies show that these factors have the strongest correlations with personal wellbeing. There could also be a geographical bias because more people who identify as gay live in London, where wellbeing is generally lower than elsewhere.

The figures, published by the Office for National Statistics, asked people

how satisfied and worthwhile they felt their lives were and whether they had felt happy or anxious the previous day.

The average score for happiness on a scale of 8 was 7.45 for heterosexuals, 7.22 for gay people and 7.04 for bisexuals.

When asked about anxiety, measured this time on a 4-point scale, bisexuals recorded the highest average score of 3.65; for gay people it was 3.36 and for heterosexuals 2.87. Three in every ten people who identified as bisexual reported high anxiety scores, compared with two in ten heterosexuals.

The report said: "Previous research has identified that general health, employment and relationship status have the largest association with personal wellbeing. Relating to this, potential factors influencing the results could include health outcomes, discrimination in access to services, including health services, and in the workplace."

News

Breeder failed to repair pen before dogs savaged girl, 2

A dog breeder has admitted being in charge of a pack of dangerously out-of-control animals that savaged a toddler, leaving her with life-changing injuries.

Andrew McGowan, 35, of Toxteth, Liverpool, kept the four dogs in an “unsecure pen” in his garden surrounded by a fence. He had failed to repair the fence after the dogs previously burst through it, a court heard yesterday.

The animals were believed to be American Bully dogs, a breed not banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act. One weighed 11 stone, Liverpool and Knowsley magistrates were told.

The animals escaped while McGowan was out and attacked the two-year-old girl, who cannot be

identified, while she played in a garden on Sunday afternoon. The girl’s aunt, 57, who was babysitting her and two other children at the time sustained bites to her arms as she pulled the powerful dogs off the toddler.

The girl was airlifted to hospital with life-changing injuries to her face and body. She remained in a serious condition in hospital last night. Two of the dogs were put down.

In court, McGowan repeatedly glanced at the girl’s father, who struggled to hold back tears, as the charges were read out and he entered a guilty plea. He was granted bail to await sentencing at Liverpool crown court on June 6. He faces a maximum of two and a half years in jail.



DIMITRIS LEGAKIS/ATHENA PICTURES

Girl in the spotty dress is granted her dying wish

A dancer whose image became synonymous with the 1950s seaside will be granted her dying wish — to be buried in the polka dot dress that made her famous. Pat Stewart was a 17-year-old Tiller Girl at Blackpool North Pier when she was photographed with the sea breeze catching beneath her skirt. The picture was at first deemed too risqué to publish but it appeared in *Picture Post* and soon put her in the limelight — she went on to work with Laurel and Hardy and Morecambe and Wise. Ms Stewart, 83, died of heart failure with her family at her bedside. Arrangements were being made yesterday for her funeral, which will be held in south Wales.

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Australian microbe fossils raise hope of life on Mars

Life thrived on the land as much as 3.5 billion years ago, hundreds of millions of years earlier than previously thought, scientists say. This raises the possibility that the earliest life forms evolved on land rather than in the sea — and boosts hope of finding life on Mars.

Fossil remnants of microbes have been found in hot spring deposits in a remote part of Western Australia. The deposits in Pilbara are 3.5 billion years old. Before this, the earliest signs of life on earth were 2.9 billion years old and found in South African rocks.

Tara Djokic, the lead researcher from the University of New South Wales, said: “Our findings don’t just

extend the record of life in hot springs by three billion years, they indicate that life was inhabiting the land much earlier than previously thought, by up to about 580 million years. This may have implications for an origin of life in freshwater hot springs on land, rather than the more widely discussed idea that life developed in the ocean.”

The discovery, reported in *Nature Communications*, has implications for the search for life on Mars, which has hot spring deposits of a similar age. “If life can be preserved in hot springs so far back in Earth’s history, then there is a good chance it could be preserved in Martian hot springs too,” Ms Djokic said.

Pensioner rescued after reversing car over 50ft cliff

An 80-year-old motorist escaped death when he reversed his car over a 50ft cliff on to rocks below.

Police, an ambulance and rescue helicopter, plus the fire service and Falmouth lifeboat were called to the beach at New Polzeath, Cornwall. The unnamed driver from Bodmin was trapped in his blue Hyundai i20 but freed and treated by paramedics. Cornwall air ambulance flew him to hospital in Plymouth, where he was in a stable condition. Sergeant Steve Hawkins, of Bodmin police, said: “Our understanding is the car was parked nearby and he somehow managed to reverse off the cliff.”



IN THE TIMES TOMORROW



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MAIN BOOK

Briton who became Isis torturer is jailed

John Simpson Crime Correspondent

A British former drug dealer who joined a gang of brutal Islamic State hostage-takers in Syria has been jailed in Turkey for seven and a half years for terrorism offences.

Aine Davis, 33, was part of the four-man gang of jihadist jailers dubbed "The Beatles" by the few captives they held who were freed. They were responsible for the detention, torture and murders of the British aid workers Alan Henning and David Haines, among others.

Davis was one of a large number of Isis recruits from west London, where he was an associate of Mohammed Emwazi, who featured in a series of

gruesome Isis propaganda videos in which many hostages were beheaded. Davis left Britain in 2013.

His wife, Amal el-Wahabi, 27, is serving a prison sentence in the UK for trying to send him funds by booking a flight for a former school friend, Nawal Msaad, to carry almost £16,000 to Turkey in her underwear.

Ms Msaad, 27, was cleared of funding terrorism after a jury agreed that she had not known what the money was for.

Javier Espinosa, a Spanish journalist who was subjected to mock executions during his time as a hostage to the gang, told the BBC that Davis "should face justice wherever it is. It doesn't matter if it's in England or Turkey or wherever. He should be in jail forever." Davis was

born in Hammersmith, west London, to a father who worked at John Lewis and a mother who was a school dinner lady. He quickly turned from petty crime to gangs and drug dealing. He used the nickname "Biggz" and was convicted no fewer than six times for drug offences.

He was jailed in the UK in 2006 for gun possession and is thought to have been radicalised in prison. He later visited Saudi Arabia on a pilgrimage, as well as travelling to Yemen, Egypt and Qatar.

Davis abandoned four children by two different mothers when he left Britain on a flight to Amsterdam in July 2013 intent on waging jihad in Syria.

Two other members of "The Beatles",



Aine Davis was behind the murder of Alan Henning, David Haines and others

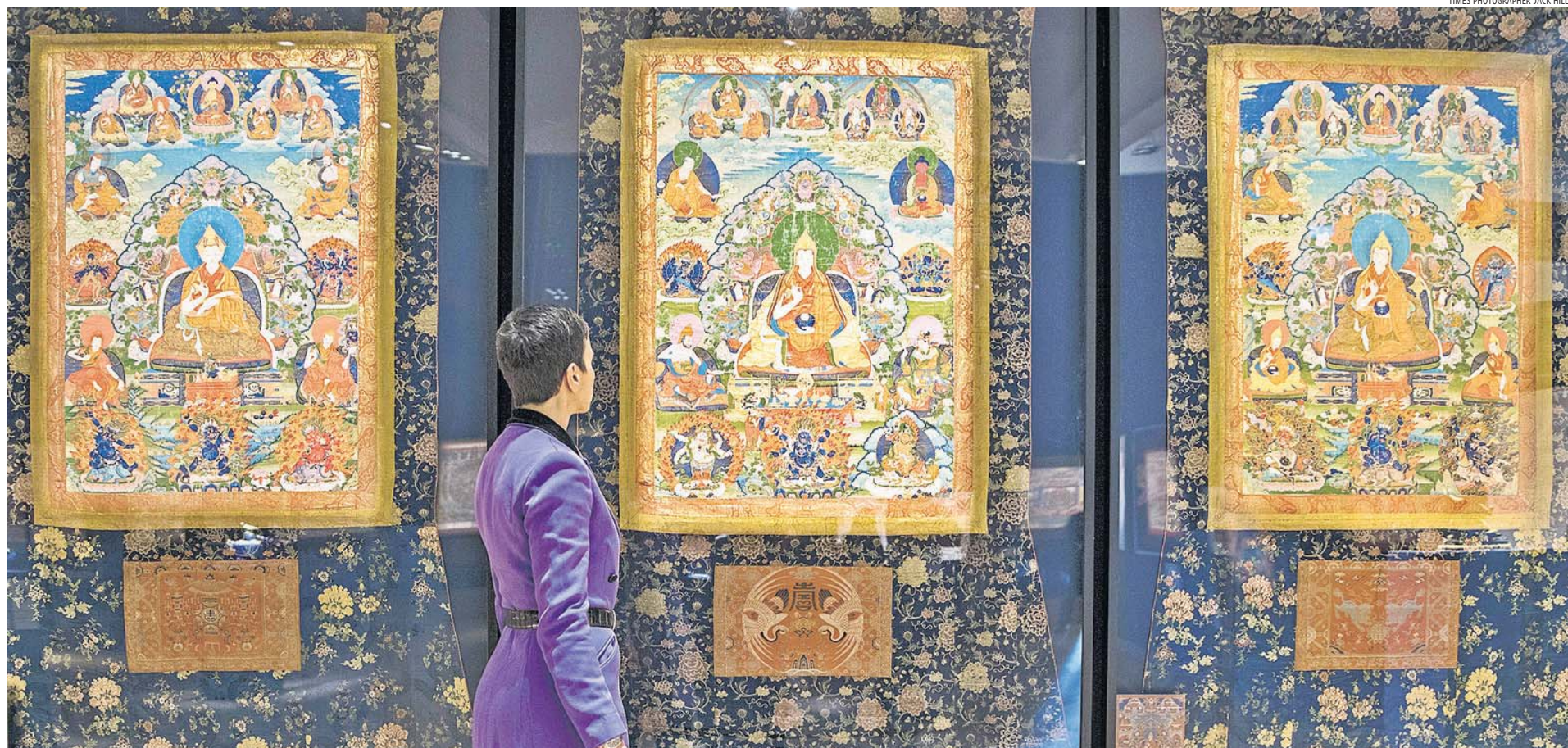
El Shafee Elsheikh and Alex Kotey, are thought to still be at large. Emwazi was killed in a drone strike in January 2016 aged 27.

Davis was arrested in a Turkish

police operation at a luxury villa in Silivri, a coastal town in the north of Istanbul province, in November 2015 with three other British men. The cases against Mohammed Karwani, 40, from London, and Jermaine Burke, 29, from High Wycombe, were dropped and they are to be deported to the UK.

The third man, Deniz Solak, 33, was acquitted by the court. Mr Solak, from east London, said that he had been working at the border with Syria delivering aid.

The Foreign Office confirmed that a Turkish court had convicted a British man who had been linked to Emwazi. A spokesman said: "We are aware of the conviction of Aine Lesley Davis for terror offences in Turkey."



Finest cloth A set of thangkas — Tibetan Buddhist paintings on cloth — depicting the early Panchen Lamas and dating from about 1835 is expected to fetch up to £300,000 at Bonhams in London tomorrow

Froome rammed by 'impatient' driver

Charles Bremner Paris

Police are searching for a driver who rammed Chris Froome, the Tour de France champion, on a hillside near Monaco and wrecked his bicycle.

Froome, 31, escaped uninjured from the crash, caused when the driver pursued him on to the pavement. Police are scanning CCTV footage and say they will do all they can to catch the person.

The Sky team rider, who has won the tour three times, tweeted from Beausoleil, a hillside town: "Just got rammed on purpose by an impatient driver who followed me onto the pavement! Thankfully I'm okay. Bike totalled. Driver kept going!"

Froome, who has lived in Monaco since 2011, included a photograph of his mangled bicycle.

Police in neighbouring Menton said that he made a complaint at the Beausoleil police station and appeared calm. "He was hit by a vehicle which was right on his tail. He wasn't hurt but his bike was in bits." A national police spokesman said that "everything will be done to find the driver involved".

The Sky team said that Froome went

home after the incident for a spare bicycle and went out training again.

He was believed to be training on the Corniche, the spectacular hillside highway that curves along the Mediterranean coast. Heavy traffic along the narrow road can make it hazardous.

"The Corniche is pleasant on a bike but it is narrow and sinuous and drivers take themselves for Sebastien Loeb," one police officer said, referring to the French motor rally champion.



Chris Froome was unhurt but his bicycle was wrecked

Geraint Thomas, a fellow member of the Sky team racing in the Giro d'Italia, told *Cycling Weekly*: "It's a reminder, it shows how dangerous it can be."

Road rage attacks have risen with the boom in competitive cycling in France. Last month, Yoann Offredo, a French professional, was badly beaten by two drivers who rammed him and two

colleagues as they trained on a country road in the Yvelines, on the western outskirts of Paris. Police identified the men and questioned them but no charges have yet been brought.

Michele Scarponi, 37, a former winner of the Giro, was killed in a collision with a van while training near Filottrano in central Italy last month.

In January last year several riders from the Giant-Alpecin team, including Warren Barguil, a two-times stage winner in the Spanish Vuelta, were seriously injured when a car drove into them in Spain.

Bradley Wiggins, Britain's only other Tour de France winner, was knocked off his bike by a van emerging from a garage forecourt near his home in 2012 in Ecclestone, Lancashire.

Froome is training for Criterium du Dauphiné in June, his familiar warm-up event before the Tour de France.

Mikel Landa, a Spanish rider also competing in the Giro for Sky, said of the incident: "I had goose bumps [seeing the photograph]. I thought about Scarponi. In an accident, we are always going to be the one who's worse off."

Fear takes root after ban on sale of GM orange petunias

Ben Webster Environment Editor

Garden centres have been ordered to withdraw orange petunias from sale over concerns that they may be illegal because they were genetically modified without authorisation.

The Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) told members not to sell the plants pending an investigation by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Orange petunias do not occur naturally, and the HTA believes that some plants may have been modified. Scientists suspect that the colour came from a maize gene.

The GM petunias were first identified in Finland in plants and seeds imported from the Netherlands and Germany. British nurseries and garden centres used the same suppliers, so the HTA said it was likely that the petunias had also found their way into the UK. Evira, Finland's food safety authority, said: "A specific authorisation procedure is required before genetically modified plants are allowed to be culti-

vated and marketed in the EU. No application has been submitted."

Raoul Curtis-Machin, the HTA's head of horticulture, said GM petunias were not dangerous and would not survive a British winter. Liz O'Neill, director of the campaign group GM Freeze, said: "Regardless of whether or not these particular GM plants pose an immediate threat, they have spread across the UK market unlabelled and unnoticed." She said it showed "a horrifying disregard for regulation", as altered plants needed to be properly tested.

Defra said it was investigating whether any GM petunias had been imported. A spokeswoman said: "If they are here, they would be here illegally and sellers would be required to take them off the market."

Opposition in several EU states has resulted in only one GM crop being approved for cultivation in 20 years. Certain flowers and grains are approved for sale, but they must be imported. Ministers believe Brexit may be an opportunity for this to change.



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Load of old junk may be vision of the future

Visual art
Rachel Campbell-Johnston

Phyllida Barlow:
British Pavilion
Venice Biennale

★★★★☆

The Venice Biennale is about to open. Damien Hirst's name is on everyone's lips. He has taken over not one, but two of the city's most prominent sites with a vast hubristic fantasy; a monument to ego. It makes the British pavilion feel rather low-key in comparison, which is no doubt precisely how this year's appointed representative would like it.

Phyllida Barlow is 73 but for most of her long career she has remained under the radar. An artist who, as recently as ten years ago, was seldom seen in a gallery. Who instead would put work out on the street and then watch, or break into abandoned spaces to make stuff which no one would see, and who chooses the sorts

of materials that most sculptors might overlook. She uses recycled timber, cardboard and plaster; wire mesh and lumps of polystyrene, splashes of what looks like spilled paint. These are brought together to create big shonky constructions: assemblages that look like the relics of collapsing buildings, or the wobbly armatures of something about to be built up.

Now, taking over the neat, neoclassical British pavilion with an installation called *folly*, she plays with the meanings that her title suggests. Balloon-like shapes appear to float about the building as you approach. Is it a jovial frivolity that she means to evoke? Or are they something more foreboding: the heads on sticks of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*?

Climb the steps and, entering, you find yourself amid a forest of huge concrete-grey pillars. They look so massive and solid. But step to the side and their armatures are revealed. Suddenly they seem almost frail.

This show demands that you engage with it physically. You slide through its labyrinths, skirting huge pieces of board that lie slanted like



Phyllida Barlow, 73, uses materials ignored by most sculptors — wire mesh, polystyrene lumps — for her shonky artworks

slices of fallen wall, pick your way around piles of giant rubble, wander under ropy old balconies or dangling blocks that look so heavy they threaten to fall. (I am sure if you brushed against them you would find they were polystyrene and would sway at the touch of a fingertip).

Sometimes you spot something that you think you recognise: an anvil, a megaphone, a gathering of chairs. But the objects are about as indefinite as

their symbolic meanings. Ideas emerge for a moment and then melt into the background of your mind.

It is not much to look at. And philosophically speaking it's pretty unfathomable. But if you think about our current political climate (it's hard not to, sandwiched between the French and the German pavilions), then Barlow's vision, in which the definite and the indefinite, the discarded and the about-to-be-created,

the collapsing and the newly constructed all meet and muddle, begins to make some sense. You start to get involved mentally as well. Barlow's messages — for all her characteristic reticence — begin to feel important. But I wonder can you ever get over the fact it looks like a load of ugly old junk? Is this how we mean the rest of Europe to see us now? Phyllida Barlow: *folly* is at the British Pavilion from May 13 to November 26

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RIP affordable funerals as costs rise by almost 50%

Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Death is becoming increasingly expensive as councils capitalise on the two certainties in life — the other being taxes — to plug gaps in their funding.

Local authorities have increased cremation and burial fees by up to 49 per cent over the past year, research suggests, prompting claims that they are using stealth taxes on grieving families to make up for government cuts.

Fees have risen by more than inflation in eight out of ten council areas, the study by a price comparison website found. Watford council imposed the single biggest increase, raising burial fees by 49.1 per cent. It was followed by Newry, Mourne and Down district council at 41.1 per cent. Cheltenham borough council increased cremation fees by almost a third.

On average, burial fees rose by 5 per cent — more than double the rate of inflation — from £1,571 to £1,755. Cremation fees rose by an average of 4.6 per cent, from £683 to £714. James Dunn, co-founder of

Funeralbooker, the website that conducted the study, said: "These price hikes are the ultimate stealth tax, going completely unnoticed by families until their moment of need. But with such significant price differences now appearing across the UK, many will be questioning whether these fees genuinely reflect the service they are getting or are simply down to opportunistic greed."

The research indicates that there is a "postcode lottery" in the cost of dying, with average burial fees ranging from £419 in Northern Ireland to £3,806 in London. Cremation was cheapest in Northern Ireland at £610 on average and most expensive in the southwest at an average of £809.

Despite being responsible for the biggest percentage increases, council-run crematoria were still typically cheaper than privately owned operators. The ten most expensive crematoria in the UK are all owned and operated by Dignity plc, with fees close to £1,000, according to the analysis.

Simon Blackburn, of the Local Government Association, said:

Grave prices

Burials

Most expensive

£18,325

Highgate Cemetery, north London. Owned by Highgate Cemetery Charity

Cheapest

£261

Cross Cemetery, Enniskillen. Owned by Fermanagh and Omagh district council

Cremations

Most expensive

£999

Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Surrey. Owned by Dignity plc

Cheapest

£490

South West Middlesex Crematorium, Feltham, west London. Owned by South West Middlesex Crematorium Board

"Councils want to provide grieving families with the best service they can but face a number of significant pressures.

"Council charges for burial and cremation services cover not only the cost of a plot or cremation but also investment in chapels of rest and grounds maintenance, as well as purchasing new equipment to meet mercury abatement standards.

"With an increasing shortage of burial plots, particularly in London and the southeast, councils are left maintaining full or nearly full cemeteries which provide little income. At the same time the increase in the number of private crematoria has added to the financial challenges councils face in providing the services bereaved families want."

He added that a number of councils were developing "low-cost" funerals in partnership with local funeral directors.

Watford council said that it introduced the 49.1 per cent price rise to stop the cemetery service being a cost to local taxpayers and to bring it in line with other local authorities in the region.

Gluten-free fad takes big slice out of bread sales

Andrew Ellson

Sales of sliced bread are falling sharply as shoppers shun carbohydrates and gluten.

The value of wrapped sliced bread sold last year fell 3.7 per cent to £1.4 billion, according to Kantar Worldpanel, a retail analyst. Sales of Warburtons, the most popular brand, were down 11 per cent to £467.2 million. Hovis had a 4.2 per cent fall and Kingsmill 1.4 per cent.

"The UK bread market contin-

ues to struggle," *The Grocer*, which published the figures, said. "Low-carb diets, concerns about gluten and a slowdown in sandwich alternatives [such as wraps], which helped boost the market last year, have sent bread sales tumbling. Warburtons was the biggest casualty of the sliced loaf's fall from favour, with a £57.6 million loss."

Experts say that bread sales have been hit by the popularity of low-carb diets and the growing trend of

people claiming to be allergic to gluten.

About one in 100 people is thought to have coeliac disease, a chronic condition that can make sufferers ill if they eat gluten, a protein found in barley, wheat and rye. However, one in eight has adopted a gluten-free diet as popularised by celebrities such as Rachel Weisz and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Sales of the gluten-free brand Genius jumped by more than

50 per cent last year, analysts said, while traditional brands hope to boost sales by introducing lower carb, high-protein alternatives, or loaves with seeds.

Ian Cummings, a senior buyer at Iceland, said: "Innovation is the key to engaging customers and driving growth, so we're challenging all our suppliers to do more."

Kingsmill recently started selling a high-fibre white loaf and a seeded farmhouse loaf; Hovis has introduced a seed sensations range.

When you can't afford to laugh, just cough

Matthew Parris

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Comment

May needs a mandate as much as a landslide

The prime minister should risk losing some votes to spell out the hard choices she will make if elected next month

Daniel Finkelstein



@DANNYTHEFINK

On August 6, 1965 President Lyndon Johnson entered the US Capitol and headed to the President's Room just off the Senate chamber. There Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves, and there, sitting at the desk he had used as a senator, LBJ signed the Voting Rights Act. With this law, the right of African-Americans to vote, so long denied, was finally secured.

On paper, Johnson had not had the support to pass an effective act. But he did have a powerful weapon. He had won a landslide election victory promising to do justice to the memory of his slain predecessor, John F Kennedy. He had defeated an opponent, Barry Goldwater, putting a clear alternative, and he had talked openly of the liberal change he would bring.

As commentators sought to explain the size of his victory, they wrote of Goldwater's shortcomings. But they also agreed that Johnson had a mandate for change. This was no ordinary election victory. It carried with it a special authority. That authority had seen his bill through a Congress that might otherwise have balked.

It looks very much as if Theresa May is going to win a large victory. Labour's shadow chancellor says that he is a Marxist, the shadow home secretary gives every impression of being unable to count, and the

shadow prime minister is Jeremy Corbyn. But Mrs May should be seeking more than a landslide. She should be seeking a mandate.

In their book *Mandate Politics*, the political scientists Lawrence Grossback, David Peterson and James Stimson look at postwar American elections to examine whether there really is such a thing as a "mandate" and whether it has any power.

Unlike prime ministers, presidents can win large victories without the power to pass bills (which belongs to Congress), so the academics contrasted instances (like LBJ in 1964 or Ronald Reagan in 1980) where the winner was generally agreed to have secured a victory for his broad argument with those (such as Jimmy Carter in 1976 or Bill Clinton in 1996) where he was not. Did having such a mandate make it easier to get laws enacted?

Yes, was the answer. People in Congress who in normal circumstances might resist a

Like LBJ, she should spend some of her political capital

president's proposal were, when they accepted he had won a personal mandate to do certain things, inclined to go along.

In other words, a landslide was one thing, but a mandate something extra on top.

Britain is different, of course. When you win a landslide, you automatically win the power to legislate. But the discovery made by the Americans is still relevant. Mandates are real, and with them, in Britain as in the US, you can get people to accept action as legitimate and reasonable that they

might ordinarily reject. How are mandates created? Part of it, of course, is winning big. But part of it is down to the story you tell about your victory.

If it's the culmination of a campaign in which a clear set of political ideas have been openly discussed, then a landslide can become a mandate. There is, however, a tension between a landslide and a mandate. The clearer you are, the franker you are, the more risks you take with the size of your victory.

So here's my advice to Theresa May. Today all you want is a landslide. By the end of June you will be wanting a mandate. You are in a strong enough position to risk a little bit now for the advantage it will bring you later. Because Jeremy Corbyn is so weak, and the demise of Ukip so strong, it is worth spending a bit of your political capital now. You would be taking a small risk, you might (and even then only might) sacrifice a small bit of your landslide, but what you would gain in return would be worth it.

Mrs May would benefit from a mandate in three areas.

First, to support her desire to be an unconventional Conservative. Mrs May is not a Thatcherite. Because of all the talk about Brexit it is easy to ignore the way she has shifted Conservative thinking about the state, taking a more expansive view, citing Joe Chamberlain's Unionists, echoing Teddy Roosevelt.

Much of this will prove controversial with the party she leads. A big majority would protect her but a mandate would protect her more. She should make sure to talk about her vision enough in advance of the election that critics can't complain afterwards that they weren't warned. She can create a



Lyndon Johnson's landslide win in 1964 came with a mandate for change

powerful feeling that she won with a new kind of Tory message and has the right to act on it.

Second, she needs a mandate to tackle the deficit. After this election any government will have to continue cutting spending or raise taxes on the broad mass of taxpayers. Or maybe both. She should be much more daring than is usual and prudent on this, particularly on tax. And on pensions. The triple lock is unsustainable. This surely is the moment to say so.

The deficit risks being the great unmentioned issue of the election. After the campaign is over, the government can't just leap out from behind the sofa and shout "surprise!" It will need public support and political understanding that could come from some frankness before June 8.

She may lose a few votes but even then only in theory. Who's she going to lose them to? Tom Watson and Len McCluskey? In the not very long run — a matter of weeks indeed — the risk will have been worth it.

And third, there is Brexit. A big majority will be essential to carry the day when negotiations are over, but how much better a mandate? Whatever your view of the consequences of leaving the EU everyone agrees that Brexit will cost money in the short to medium term, and it is likely to result in instability. A reasonable deal may prove

The time to lower expectations among the voters is now

impossible, with the best will in the world. It's quite obvious that other EU governments do not see it as in their interests for Brexit to be viewed as a success.

The time to lower expectations — to explain that things will be rocky and to outline how you will handle them — is now.

Election night will be wonderful for Tories. But it won't be too long before it starts to rain. Keeping the economy growing will be difficult, the deficit will be difficult, Brexit will be difficult. As someone once said, they should fix the roof while the sun is shining.

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Comment

Trump's North Korea gamble is paying off

Separating regime change and denuclearisation will preserve peace, as long as China is on side

Roger
Boyes



@ROGERBOYES

A dictator at bay is capable of unleashing terrible violence. If Kim Jong-un imagined himself under attack from the United States, he could bombard the South Koreans with Scud missiles containing nerve agents, paralyse the country's airports and train stations, and hold hostage the capital city of Seoul. All without making use of anything in his nuclear arsenal.

That is how Victor Cha, a former National Security Council adviser, paints it in his book *The Impossible State*. A North Korean military defector confirms that Kim's strategy will be to spread chaos and seize key positions in the south before the US has had a chance to reinforce its contingent of 28,000. That explains why the man set to be president of South Korea after yesterday's election, Moon Jae-in, wants to open a new dialogue with Kim. And why President Trump has suddenly taken to calling Kim "a pretty smart cookie". Despite the overwhelming firepower of the US compared with a rogue state like North Korea, there can never be a clean, clinical military strike on the Korean peninsula.

In a way that eluded Barack Obama, Trump is thus seeking to disconnect the two issues of regime

change and the denuclearisation of North Korea. Kim's worst fear is that he will be toppled, a concern greater than the temporary loss of face involved in reining back his nuclear programme. The North Korean dictator is plainly convinced there are myriad US-inspired plots against him. An enraged Kim hacked Sony Pictures when it produced Seth Rogen's *The Interview*, a comedy about an attempt to kill him. Anyone within the family circle who grows too close to China is also seen as a risk; hence the public killing of his half-brother in Kuala Lumpur airport.

Trump says he will be "honoured" to meet Kim for only one reason: he wants to signal that Obama's policy of strategic patience has run its course, since it put no effective restraints on Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions. Now the strategy is to convince Kim that he won't end up like Colonel Gaddafi if

The broader aim is to turn China into a co-operative partner

he freezes and then dismantles his nuclear weapons. That means simulating public respect. And it means nudging him along with a raft of sanctions that really work.

Since the Mar-a-Lago summit between Trump and President Xi, China has taken more seriously its responsibility to enforce sanctions, to cut back on coal imports from North Korea and tighten the borders. Trump wants Kim to understand that developing long-range nuclear missiles will not bring respect but

rather a generation of even deeper isolation and paranoia. The only route out is by coming to an understanding with the US leader.

It is the threat of a Kim missile hitting the US coastline or, more credibly, the US troop presence in South Korea that has prompted Trump to spend so much time on the issue. But his broader aim is to change fundamentally the relationship with China by turning it into a co-operative (and in some ways junior) partner, not just in North Korea but on trade deals too. Crucial is that China stops seeing itself as a relentlessly ascendant power on course to challenge a superpower in decline. That, as the generals have been quietly warning Trump, is the road to war by misadventure if not in Korea then on the South China Sea.

The Chinese interest on the Korean peninsula is clear: it wants to prevent a meltdown in the north that leads to reunification and the emergence of a well-armed ally of the US at its borders. It also wants the US air defence system known as Thaad to be removed from South Korea because it is a potent spying device on China as well as Kim's hermit realm. And in return for constructive partnership on North Korea, it wants the US to back out of the South China Sea. It can achieve some of these aims by co-operating with Trump, or by pretending to do so.

Moon Jae-in is not only more conciliatory than his disgraced predecessor towards North Korea, he is more sceptical of US power and is acutely aware of the importance of trade with China to South Korea's wellbeing. Despite this hint of anti-

Americanism, it seems that Moon, Trump and Xi will be on the same path for the time being, trying to carrot-and-stick Kim towards the path of de-escalation. Kim did not stage a sixth nuclear test explosion to coincide with the South Korean election, which suggests that someone is advising him sensibly.

Yet it could well be that the Chinese are playing Trump. Kim has been denouncing China a little too loudly: "Beijing is dancing to the tune of the US and has revealed itself to be a big power chauvinist", said a recent Pyongyang commentary, lamenting Beijing's apparent froideur. China has told all of its citizens to leave North Korea for fear of reprisals. This could be the theatre of disagreement rather than the real thing, mounted to hoodwink the US president. State-owned Chinese companies have been undermining sanctions, for example by mining minerals in North Korea that are essential in missile production.

So here's the risk: that Xi, despite 21 hours of Florida summitry and several follow-up phone calls, is still convinced that Trump is trying to find ways of turning China into a eunuch, containing its power. Ultimately, Xi may be calculating, Trump wants to push Chinese influence off the Korean peninsula. That great emerging entente cordiale between Washington and Beijing may thus soon curdle. If, against the odds, it works and Kim is persuaded to verifiably put his nukes on ice, then Trump and Xi could start to ogle the Nobel. If it doesn't pan out, well then it might be worth building that concrete bunker at the end of your garden.



Plan to cap energy prices smacks of 1970s madness

Iain Martin

Some time in the late 1970s, the press spokesman to the then minister of consumer protection, Roy Hattersley, made a series of phone calls to members of the press. One of those on the receiving end recalls to this day the excitement. I have good news for your readers, he was told: Roy has managed to hold down the prices of shirts and underwear.

This was Britain before the dawn of Margaret Thatcher, when governments attempted to run a protectionist policy controlling prices and incomes, and ministers sat in judgment on the minutiae. A daft economic experiment distorted incentives and gummed up the workings of the UK economy to a calamitous extent.

It would be a stretch to say that the plans unveiled this week by the Conservatives to cap household energy prices instantly transport the UK back four decades. The proposed limit on the standard tariff is, for now, a modest affair. But in

Voters told one set of prices can be capped may ask for more

accepting the principle, mid-election, that governments should set prices, even in one area, the Conservatives have crossed too far into deeply dangerous territory.

Difficult and painful work was undertaken in the 1980s to wean the British off the notion that the government should control the economy. It took a long time for the adjustment to the market to be accepted. Now, the message goes out from the Conservatives that nanny-state government should step in if a price is perceived to be too high and there are sufficiently loud complaints. Those who do take the trouble to pay attention and switch energy provider will find price rises piled on them, rather than on the feckless who cannot be bothered to check and have their prices capped.

Why stop with energy bills? Why not have the government cap mortgage repayments when a fixed rate runs out? Why not cap the price of beer? I foolishly paid £5 for a pint in central London the other day. Can I have a public inquiry?

The reason the Tories have made this move now is obvious. An energy prize freeze unveiled by Labour in 2015 was popular. The Tories are pushing to convert voters deep in Labour territory, and this is designed to appeal on the basis that it sounds like sticking up for consumers.

This is economic illiteracy and a bad basis on which to make policy, because voters told by a prime minister that one set of prices can be capped may ask: why not more? Look where that got the country in the 1970s.

Matthew Parris My Week

When you can't afford to laugh, just cough

Surely I shall never experience this again? On Monday I found myself sitting next to a man watching a play in which he was the central figure, played by a young actor. *Occupational Hazards* was having its press night at the Hampstead Theatre in London, and I was sitting next to the (now) politician Rory Stewart.

The play is about Rory Stewart. This gripping reconstruction of his time as the (then) young governor of a province in southern Iraq during the US-British occupation doesn't attempt mimicry, and is the better for that. It's more a study of a hopeless situation and a hopeful leader: a collision between the irrepressible and the unachievable. It's excellent — very GB Shaw — and I was rapt; but I longed to know what was going through Mr Stewart's mind as he watched himself through the prism of a playwright's imagination. Like Prince Hal

watching Shakespeare's *Henry IV*. Mr Stewart told me afterwards that his main fear was that the play would come across as an attempt to big him up. It didn't, really. What do you do, though, sitting among an audience chortling at a ludicrous statement by a chap on a stage — and the chap on the stage is playing the chap next to you? I coughed politely.

In need of a thief

The rest of my week takes on a rather rural flavour, beginning with an outbreak of sheep rustling in my nearest village of Elton, in the Derbyshire Peak District.

Colin Swindell, our super-conscientious councillor, has emailed everyone in the area with the news that "three young men in a black van" on a nearby lane were disturbed by a local resident in the act of stealing sheep.

They made their escape but got away with only two sheep and a lamb. We are all urged to keep our eyes open for further acts of agricultural larceny.

I, meanwhile, need these young thieves' advice on how to round up fleet-footed ruminants, as the next item will show...

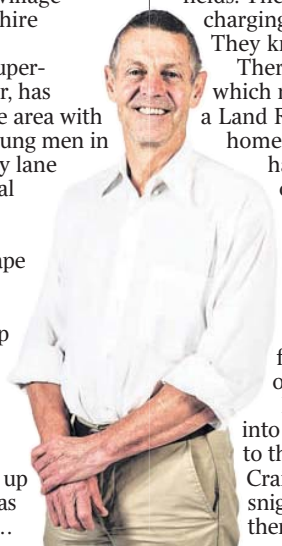
Loose llamas

There has been a llama breakout. Vera was the ringleader. They don't like the field in which they've been billeted to eat off the weeds, and when my partner slipped open the gate to give them a little treat of extra corn, Vera bolted straight through it, past the house and up the track into fields that are not mine. The gate having now been shut, the other three llamas, Craig, Ann and Ben, took a flying leap over a stone wall into the same fields. They all danced around, charging, frisking and jumping. They knew they'd been bad.

There followed an hour in which my partner and I, using a Land Rover, tried to herd them home. Ben in particular was having a laugh,

occasionally sitting down and munching grass to show he didn't care. Craig did a gallop in a bouncing stride I'd never seen in a llama — like a deer, with all four feet off the ground at once.

Finally they were herded into position outside the gate to their field. Vera, Ann and Craig filed in, mentally sniggering. Ben looked at us then, spurning the gate,





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No 10's Vicar of Dibley must not look smug

Parish-style politics will carry Theresa May through the election campaign but the Brexit talks demand much more

Alice Thomson



@ALICETTIMES

If David was the patrician squire delivering packages to the poor and visiting the village school to make sure the estate children knew their times tables, Theresa is the lady vicar," says one of Mrs May's team. "She is not a patrician Tory, an intellectual, a visionary or an ideologue — it's about parish politics. Downing Street is her vicarage and we are all her parishioners."

As Mrs May's manifesto takes shape this week, the country is beginning to understand more of her views and values. The sermons she has delivered during her first ten months in office have focused on "burning injustices". She quietly believes that her faith will lead her "to do the right thing". The aide explains: "She is anti-flash to Cameron's Flashman."

Since calling the election she has highlighted pledges such as tackling modern slavery, ending the stigma that still surrounds mental health, helping those caring for the elderly

and stopping discrimination against ethnic minorities. This is not about handing out sweets to bribe the electorate. She is never going to call for more bank holidays like Jeremy Corbyn.

Occupying the moral high ground matters to Mrs May. It explains why, despite abandoning many of her predecessor's initiatives, she surprised some allies by sticking to David Cameron's promise to spend 0.7 per cent of GDP on international aid.

Hers is not an evangelical Christianity like that of the Liberal Democrat leader. Tim Farron may wrestle with his conscience over gay relationships but Mrs May regarded equal marriage as a practical and

Theresa May is the anti-flash to David Cameron's Flashman

compassionate reform. She once voted against equalising the age of consent, repealing Section 28, gay adoption and assisted suicide but subsequent votes have shown that she is not dogmatic. "She doesn't like to seem superior or judgmental," says another former aide.

It's why she felt compelled to tell Conservatives that they were regarded as "the nasty party" in her conference

debut as party chairwoman 15 years ago. She agonised about including the line in her speech but one who helped her write it says that ultimately she could not bear to be seen as representing bullies and bigots. She is happy to call herself a "bloody difficult woman", on the other hand, because it shows she is prepared to stick up for those who lack the clout to take on foes, whether they be in Brussels or in big business. Corporate Britain, she believes, needs to do a lot more to show it cares for the workers who help to generate its vast profits.

The Archbishop of Canterbury instinctively likes this kind of politics. Justin Welby sent a three-page letter to clergy last week calling for them to back stability and cohesion, although he has denied this implicitly meant vote Tory. "Lambeth Palace and Downing Street relations are at the most cordial they have been for decades," says one dean. "She is trying to keep the parish together, looking after the black sheep of her flock as well as the most needy. She realises that people need second chances." This may be why she is also looking at further reforms to prisons and the rehabilitation of offenders in the Tory manifesto.

This slightly lofty but genuine concern for the less well-off stems from her background as a vicar's daughter. Mrs May did the rounds

with her father every Christmas in his Oxfordshire parish, visiting the single mothers, the mentally ill and the dispossessed. In her politics she wants everyone to be included in a warm but undefined embrace, not unlike that she believes the Church of England offers. This helps explain her popularity — the clergy are trusted by 71 per cent of the population for their sense of duty and service, politicians by only 16 per

Her moral rectitude could come across as haughty or parochial

cent, but her approval rating is currently 49 per cent.

Her former colleague Michael Gove suggests that she is an Anglo-Catholic but a friend from her Oxford days says "she is more the Vicar of Dibley than Aquinas. She does the flower arranging and her husband is a server but they are not having theological discussions." She also expects the bellringers in her Maidenhead parish church to do her bidding. Everyone needs to pull in unison or they are left off the rota.

Unlike the tactile Blair or Cameron, she shows no sign of needing to be liked by colleagues or the great and the good. But for all her aura of self-

sufficient competence, she does want the affirmation of voters on the doorstep and even clashed with her powerful joint chief of staff Fiona Hill, who told her recently that she was spending too much time canvassing door-to-door.

Her real difficulties will start after the election and her presumed victory. Well-intentioned measures to look after the least privileged are all very well on the campaign trail but where is the money to make them a reality? It's easy to say now that mental health must be a priority but she hasn't found any extra money to pay for specialist nurses in the NHS. Cries of "betrayal" may not be far away.

Lynton Crosby, her election strategist, dislikes some of these "churchy" pledges because they are so vague that they may do little to persuade swing voters to rally round her next month. "But he is only trying to fill a church on one day," an aide said, "Mrs May has to think about the next five years."

A bigger issue will come when Britain's vicar meets the 27 leaders in Europe who think they hold the moral high ground in Brexit talks. Then, as one former Downing Street insider says, "her moral rectitude may come across as, at best, haughty or smug and, at worst, as parochial and narrow-minded."

Letters to the Editor



Cuts 'weaken our defence capability'

Sir, The armed services are having to seek further damaging savings in manpower, support and training at a time when the likelihood of combat operations is increasing. These realities of the security situation must be faced. They have been largely kept from public debate despite the efforts of the media and the valedictory messages of recently serving senior officers, pointing out how equipment and manpower shortages undermine our ability to fight even a local war. Recent Royal United Services Institute war gaming confirms this view.

There may be a temptation to call for another defence review. We urge the prime minister not to do this. The 2015 strategic defence and security review, as is widely recognised, set the right path for our long-term security. The Labour government's excellent review of 1998 was later weakened by budgetary infighting. Let us not go down that devious political path again. The solution is to fund the review properly, and if this means a commitment to increase expenditure over the lifetime of the parliament, then we should do it. There can be no better foundation for a future which demands an outward-looking and globally trading UK. Reversing any part of it will damage our international credibility, weaken our chances of forging strong global partnerships and further erode our ability to defend ourselves and our allies.

GENERAL SIR RICHARD BARRONS; VICE-ADMIRAL SIR JEREMY BLACKHAM; ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET LORD BOYCE; PROFESSOR MICHAEL CLARKE, former director-general, Royal United Services Institute; PROF PAUL CORNISH, chief strategist, City Forum; CHRIS DONNELLY, director, Institute of Statecraft; LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR ROBERT FULTON; AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR MICHAEL GRAYDON; AIR COMMODORE ANDREW LAMBERT; AIR VICE-MARSHAL PROFESSOR TONY MASON; GENERAL LORD RICHARDS OF HERSTMONCEUX; GENERAL SIR MICHAEL ROSE; PROFESSOR SIR HEW STRACHAN, University of St Andrews; MAJOR-GENERAL JULIAN THOMPSON
Plus a further ten names at thetimes.co.uk/letters

Corrections and clarifications

● We incorrectly stated (TMS, May 6) that Ann Clwyd had stood down as a Labour MP. She is in fact standing again.

● We misleadingly stated that there is a railway station at Heathfield, East Sussex ("20 beautiful cycle routes", Weekend, May 6). There was, but it closed in the 1960s.

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Backlash over Theresa May's energy price cap

Sir, Making markets fair is vital: we must defend Britain's wealth-creating open economy from populists and the anger they feed on, so Theresa May deserves credit for trying to address the grievance many people feel about energy markets ("May faces backlash over energy price cap", May 9).

Yet a price cap risks making the market less fair in the long term. Suppliers are likely to claw back the cost by charging higher prices to customers who have shopped around to get a better deal: the cap would thus redistribute money from engaged customers to unengaged ones. This could reduce the incentive to shop around and switch, and encourage customers to stay put. That is hard to reconcile with years of regulation and policy aimed at increasing customer engagement in the energy market.

Mrs May should look instead at new ways to use nudging, collective buying and reverse auctions to make suppliers work harder to win and retain loyal customers. Long-term standard variable tariff customers

who do not opt out could be "bundled" together and their business transferred to the supplier who offers the lowest rate. Competition, not politicians, should drive down prices.

JAMES KIRKUP
Director, Social Market Foundation

Sir, A cap on energy prices will be very damaging to consumers as well as the energy market. Suppliers, especially the large companies, are likely to concentrate on complying with the rules rather than competing. If they level all their prices up to the cap and remove cheap deals, many millions of householders who have made the effort to engage with the market will see their bills rise significantly. Choice and variety will diminish, as will consumer disengagement. Whatever form the cap takes, customers should be under no illusions that bills will be coming down. Before inflation, cost increases of £50 per household for policy and infrastructure are due to take effect during the next parliamentary term. Administering the price cap risks

being asked to sign off bill increases and will be a thankless task for Ofgem. Any criticism will surely undermine consumer trust and engagement even further, just at the time that it needs nurturing.

Hence, capping prices may make short-term political sense but will further undermine the market and open the door for continuing and deepening interventions in the future.
ROBERT BUCKLEY
Director, Cornwall Insight

Sir, This proposal is a brilliant stealth tax. The energy tariff cap will help the disadvantaged (ie, the poor) who do not or cannot sign on to the more favourable tariffs. Will less money be spent by the energy companies on investment? Of course not. Will the profits made by the energy companies decrease? Of course not. The favourable tariffs will become less favourable and so the gains made by the disadvantaged will be paid for by the advantaged (ie, the rich). Job done.
GEORGE ANDRONOV
Northfield, Birmingham

Royal archives row

Sir, Ben Macintyre's article (May 6) shows that the royal archives are not releasing material for the interwar years and that the Duke of Coburg was one of Hitler's go-betweens with the royal family. This article was based on new German sources. I therefore cannot agree with Lord Lexden's criticism (letter, May 9) that Coburg was simply a recipient of "banal information". Coburg was already in the 1920s a member of a radical right-wing terror organisation that was involved in several political murders in Germany. His British relatives were aware of his involvement but he was still a frequent guest of Queen Mary and later her sons. Coburg helped Hitler to come to power within Germany. From 1933 Hitler used him as a back-channel. Hitler sent him to Edward VIII during the Rhineland Crisis (1936) and to his successor George VI during the Sudeten crisis (1938). Edward VIII suggested an alliance with Germany to the Duke of Coburg. I would not call this banal.

DR KARINA URBACH
School of Historical Studies, Princeton

Climate change

Sir, I disagree that the Paris climate change agreement was "weak and futile" ("Trump is right to be sceptical of climate deal", Matt Ridley, May 8). Bjorn Lomborg's analysis of the costs and benefits of the agreement, on which Matt Ridley relies, has been extensively debunked. It relies on completely unrealistic assumptions, such as that governments will abruptly end emissions-cutting programmes in 2030 and go back to burning coal. The Paris agreement is not the perfect vehicle for reaching a low-carbon future, and no one claims that it is. But it has given every government, business and investor an unequivocal direction of travel. However, Matt Ridley is right that we need to accelerate progress if we are to bring the risk of global warming under firmer control.

People across the world are facing the impact of climate change right now, and the effects are severest in many poor, dry countries, such as Mali, where I have been working for the past 35 years. For such people, further delay in cutting emissions

means a heightened risk of livelihoods being lost.
DR CAMILLA TOULMIN
International Institute for Education and Development, Edinburgh

Hospital parking

Sir, Labour's proposal to end hospital parking charges (May 9), though desirable, is impractical. Hospitals employ numerous staff, and if parking were unregulated cars owned by hospital staff would easily fill a large proportion of the parking spaces. Yet many, indeed most, employers in urban areas do not offer free parking to their staff. In addition, commuters would soon fill the parking spaces — particularly at hospitals near a railway station, like the two in my part of London. Charges and staff restrictions, or more complex, more expensive, permit schemes for patients, are essential to maintain patient access.

PETER WEST
London SW20

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1914 THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1918

ON THIS DAY MAY 10, 1917

WANTED, A HUSBAND

Miss Gladys Cooper is now so securely established in public favour that, we suggest, she could afford to take risks. She might, for instance, undertake a real live character, if only as a lark. To be sure the public might not see the joke, but what of that? To so thorough a sportswoman art for art's sake would, by way of a change, have sufficient attraction. We are encouraged to mention art because of "The water-colours in

Acts 1 and 3 by Alexander Cozens and Thomas Girtin kindly lent by Edward Marsh, Esq". Will not some one kindly lend Miss Gladys Cooper something you can call a part in something you can call a play? At present she has to get along playing herself, and replaying herself, and re-replaying herself. You see her, as you always have seen her, fascinatingly offhand, coldly contemptuous of the trousered sex, until her ferocity is tamed by the right man just as it is time for the curtain to fall. You see her in the prettiest possible gowns, making the poor men in their ugly clothes monkeys by comparison. Indeed, the foolish people who talk of the equality of the sexes can never have seen Miss Gladys Cooper on the stage putting men in their place. Of course, when the men are such a set as you see in *Wanted, a Husband* — a bully, a butler, idiot members of some club — all respondents to a "spoof" matrimonial advertisement, the lady's task is easy. But Mr Cherry to the rescue! He, if only he, can be cool and collected in presence of this magnificent creature. You see, he has

played with her before, and knows the weak points in her armour, and just when to venture the all-conquering kiss. Among so many lamentable men, the presence of Mr Cherry, debonair and crowned with a hat of the right sort, restores your masculine self-respect. No wonder he goes round audibly admiring the kindly lent water-colours. You feel that, as a rare work of art, he must have been kindly lent himself. There is an amusing kitchen scene (range kindly lent by a well-known firm), with Miss Cooper masquerading in an apron, and making hay of Mrs Beeton. Whatever she does the public applaud her. So do we, even against our better judgment, because Miss Cooper fairly knocks judgment endways. All the same, we should like to see her try Millamant some day, just for sport. And Mr Cherry would be the very man for Mirabell.

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The only U-boat sunk by a bishop

Sir, Lord Montagu's letter to *The Times* 100 years ago (On this day, May 8) was prescient in recognising the importance of reconnaissance aircraft in the mix of forces needed to combat the threat posed by submarines. He would have been delighted to know that only 19 days later a Curtis Large America seaplane of the Royal Naval Air Service based on Tresco in the Isles of Scilly became the first — and only — aircraft to be credited with the unassisted sinking of a U-boat in the First World War. The submarine, UC66, had previously sunk more than 100,000 tons of Allied shipping, including a hospital ship. The seaplane crew of four included Sub-Lieutenant William Anderson; it was he who dropped the bombs that sank UC66. After the war Anderson was ordained and later became Bishop of Salisbury. I know of no other bishop who has sunk a submarine.
GROUP CAPT M G PEAKER RAF (ret'd)
Northwood, Middx

Jumping ship

Sir, As a Labour moderate who joined the party aged 15 in 1945, was parliamentary candidate for Altrincham and Sale in 1964 and 1965, MP for Harrow East in 1966, a candidate in 1970 and candidate for Leek in 1974, I do not accept Rachel Sylvester's advice (Comment, May 9) to "jump ship" but prefer to adopt Hugh Gaitskell's advice during similar troubles to "fight and fight again to save the party we love".

For Labour went though similar troubles in the 1930s and was almost wiped out until it was saved by Clement Attlee and returning soldiers, sailors, and airmen and ARP wardens and munitions workers; the party went on to win the 1945 election. But who will save us today?
ROY ROEBUCK
London N1

Enigmatic solution

Sir, Andrew Neill states (letter, May 6) that "there may be no such thing as a solution" to the mystery of Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, and adds that musicologists will ponder the issue for another 120 years. This, I think, is barking up the wrong tree. Elgar never named his piece *Enigma*; that was done by the publisher, Novello. I think Elgar retained the title partly out of a sense of mischief but also because it perfectly expressed his feelings towards "my friends pictured within". Friendships are indeed enigmatic and various. It is difficult to imagine all the friends pictured within sitting around one dining table. Therefore I propose, to save further inquiry, that *Enigma* simply means the "mystery" of friendship.
RHW COOPER
Grasmere, Cumbria

Language of music

Sir, It is true that the warmth of the Italian temperament is heard in both language and music (letter, May 9), but the origin of the use of Italian for musical terms lies not just in the beauty of the language. In the 17th century Italy led the musical world and many young composers studied there, imbibing both a new expressive musical style and new fashionable words to prescribe it.
FREDERIC GOODWIN
Louth, Lincs


Daily Universal Register

UK: António Guterres, the secretary-general of the UN, gives a speech in Westminster; TalkTalk releases its preliminary full-year results; the Royal Windsor horse show starts; the Dylan Thomas prize is awarded.

Nature notes

Buttercups are opening and fields of grass are starting to turn a glittering yellow. Children sometimes hold a buttercup under another child's chin and see if the golden glow of the petals is reflected there. If it is, the child is said to like butter. There are two very common species of buttercup. The bulbous buttercup generally appears first. It is a relatively low-lying plant and can be distinguished by the way the green sepals beneath the flower turn back and hang down below it. The meadow buttercup grows much taller, with fern-like leaves and many long-stalked flowers. The sepals on these flowers generally stay close-pressed to the undersides of the flowers. Two little pansies are nodding on small stalks in arable fields. The species called field pansies are a conspicuous creamy-white or yellow and may have a dash of purple on them. The ones called wild pansies are violet or blue, tinged with yellow on their bottom petal. DERWENT MAY

Birthdays today

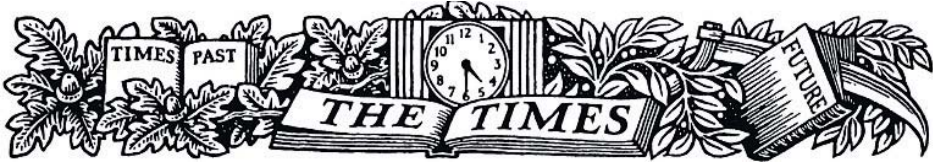
 **Manuel Santana**, pictured, tennis player, Wimbledon singles champion (1966), 79; **Dennis Bergkamp**, footballer, Arsenal (1995-2006), 48; **Bono**, singer, U2, *The Joshua Tree* (1987), 57; **Sir Winfried Bischoff**, chairman, Financial Reporting Council, Lloyds Banking Group (2009-14), 76; **Donovan**, singer-songwriter, *Mellow Yellow* (1966), 71; **Jonathan Edwards**, triple jump Olympic gold medalist (2000), 51; **Linda Evangelista**, supermodel, 52; **Diarmuid Gavin**, garden designer, Chelsea Flower Show gold medal (2011), 53; **Sir Christopher Gent** chairman, GlaxoSmith-Kline (2005-15), 69; **Graham Gouldman**, singer-songwriter, 10cc, *Dreadlock Holiday* (1978), 71; **Alex Jennings**, actor, *The Lady in the Van* (2015), 60; **Lucinda Lambton**, writer, *Palaces for Pigs* (2011), photographer and broadcaster, 74; **Sir John Laws**, Lord Justice of Appeal (1999-2016), 72; **Maureen Lipman**, actress, *Educating Rita* (1983), 71; **Rob Malda**, journalist, founder of slashdot.org, considered the forerunner of the blog, 41; **Dave Mason**, singer-songwriter and guitarist, *Traffic*, *Feelin' Alright* (1968), 71; **Al Murray**, comedian, 49; **Ellen Ochoa**, astronaut, director of the Johnson Space Center, 59; **Prof Edward Peck**, vice-chancellor, Nottingham Trent University, 58; **Sally Phillips**, actress, *Miranda* (2009-15), 47; **Miuccia Prada**, fashion designer, 68; **Jon Ronson**, journalist and author, *The Men Who Stare at Goats* (2004), 50; **Jon Schofield**, kayaker, Olympic silver medalist (2016), 32; **Barbara Taylor Bradford**, author, *A Woman of Substance* (1979), 84; **Venetia Williams**, racehorse trainer, 57; **Debbie Wiseman**, film and TV composer, *Wolf Hall* (2015), 54.

On this day

In 1857 the Indian Mutiny began; in 1922 Dr Ivy Williams became the first woman to be called to the English Bar; in 1998 members of Sinn Féin voted to accept the Good Friday peace agreement.

The last word

“Love and scandal are the best sweeteners of tea.” Henry Fielding, British novelist and dramatist, in *Love in Several Masques* (1728).



Labour’s Love’s Lost

Yesterday Jeremy Corbyn launched his party’s official general election campaign. His policies may be popular, but few are credible and neither is he

Jeremy Corbyn was in his rabble-rousing comfort zone yesterday. The system is rigged, he said, in favour of tax cheats, greedy bankers and rip-off bosses. Even as the Labour Party launches its official campaign, however, it is too short on substance when talking about how to unrig “the system”. Mr Corbyn juggles popular pledges with populist rhetoric in an effort to distract voters from his party’s intellectual vacuum. It is still early days, but Labour, putting it kindly, does not seem to have a vision in this election. It also lacks a clear policy on the most important issue of all: Brexit.

Mr Corbyn’s invective is not his alone. As real incomes across the developed world have struggled to recover since the economic crisis, particularly among the poorest, a narrative of systemic manipulation by a selfish cabal has gained traction. It was at the centre of Marine Le Pen’s playbook in the French election. In his inaugural address, Donald Trump lamented that America’s victories have been jealously guarded by the establishment, rather than shared with “the people”.

There are echoes closer to home as well. At times Mr Corbyn’s speech was strangely reminiscent of Theresa May’s party conference address last year. To inconsiderate bosses, tax-dodging companies and self-serving company directors,

the prime minster said: “I’m putting you on warning.” If Mrs May’s message sounded like a scolding, Mr Corbyn’s almost had the ring of scripture. “There will be a reckoning,” he said.

Labour has tried to advance policies to bring that reckoning about. Most of them are broadly popular and some are even good. A massive house-building drive, for instance, is sorely needed. The party’s pledge to end charges for parking at hospitals is worth considering too.

Yet a list of popular policies does not add up to a credible platform. That is partly because too many have little basis in economics or empirical evidence. Labour’s pledge to fund free meals for all primary school children with VAT on private school fees was based on the bizarre assumption that a new tax would not affect demand for school places. A £10 minimum wage, likewise, may sound attractive at first, but not if it means low-paid workers lose their jobs.

The promise of 10,000 new police officers might have sounded enticing had Diane Abbott, the shadow home secretary, not appeared to pluck the number out of thin air and fund the pledge with imaginary money. The promise to soak the rich with big income tax rises for those earning above £150,000, and a more modest increase for those on

more than £80,000, might seem to spread the burden of maintaining public services fairly, if not for the fact that high earners have already faced several tax rises since 2010 while middle earners have faced none.

The real problem, of course, is not that these isolated pledges do not bear much scrutiny. It is that they do not matter. No government can manage the police, or fund the NHS, or reform adult social care, unless it can keep the economy growing and so feed the tax base. If Mr Corbyn wants to change Britain’s economic system he needs to show that he understands it, and get a grip on its departure from the EU.

Labour is not just unable to communicate its policy on Brexit. It does not seem to have one. Yesterday Mr Corbyn was asked six times whether Britain would leave the EU if he were prime minister. Six times he dodged the question. There was not much more clarity on offer in his speech. Labour, he said, wants a “jobs-first Brexit, a Brexit that safeguards the future of Britain’s vital industries”. The Labour leader often says that his critics are too quick to attack him personally, ignoring his policy platform. In that case, he needs a platform on which to be judged. Complaining of a rigged system is not enough.

Mob Rule

Creeping Islamism is undermining Indonesian democracy

For nearly two decades the world’s most populous Muslim-majority country has enjoyed broadly secular government and steady progress towards democracy even as it struggles with the threat of Islamist extremism. That delicate balance is under threat.

Yesterday the governor of Jakarta was jailed for two years on blasphemy charges that no independent court should have considered seriously, much less upheld. Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, better known by the nickname Ahok, is Christian and ethnic Chinese. He had taken on the governorship of the Indonesian capital in 2014 when his predecessor was elected president. Last month he was heavily defeated in his attempt to become the country’s first directly elected non-Muslim politician, but only after a dramatic reversal of fortune: he was ahead in opinion polls until a doctored video of him making a light-hearted comment about a single verse of the Koran went viral. That led to mass demonstrations, a travesty of a trial and Mr Basuki’s incarceration. Indonesia’s leaders need to know what this looks like to the outside world. It looks like mob rule.

Mr Basuki’s case is not an isolated phenomenon. The charge of blasphemy, introduced in Indonesia in 1965, was hardly used for 40 years but has been the focus of more than 120 cases against non-Muslims since 2004. Hardline Islamist groups, though largely excluded from positions of national power, have established deep roots in local jurisdictions, passing more than 400 Sharia ordinances in the past 20 years.

These are partly — and ironically — expressions of the more open political culture that Indonesia has fostered since the downfall of the dictator Muhammad Suharto in 1998. With democracy and decentralisation has come more opportunity for proselytizing by Islamists. Indonesian security forces implemented a crackdown across the archipelago after the 2002 Bali bombing by al-Qaeda-linked terrorists, but one effect was to make a celebrity of the regime’s prime suspect, Abu Bakar Bashir. Another, predictably, was to drive extremists underground rather than eradicate them.

Many have since re-emerged. In Aceh province, devastated by the 2004 tsunami, morality police empowered by Sharia patrol hotels and beaches,

enforcing a ban on alcohol and ordering Muslims to prayer. In Jakarta this year a leading hardline cleric was jailed for treason, but the case only increased his power to mobilise public protests that have shaken the government of President Widodo and almost certainly intimidated the five judges in the case of Mr Basuki.

Secular government is a founding principle of modern Indonesia as of modern Turkey, but neither inspires much hope that the creeping Islamisation under way in Ankara and Jakarta is reversible. As the election for governor of the capital approached, mosques displayed posters stating that it was forbidden for Muslims to vote for non-Muslims. The notion distorts the Koran and violates the official ideology of the Indonesian state, known as Pancasila, but it appears to have persuaded many thousands of voters. Mr Basuki lost by 16 percentage points.

Mr Widodo has refused to intervene in the Basuki case and urged Indonesians to trust “the legal process”. An appeal is already under way. The only outcome that can restore trust in the process is Mr Basuki’s prompt acquittal and release.

Honestly, I’m Working

If you must interrupt me, you ought to be prepared

A Canadian company has developed a traffic light for desks, which shows workers in open-plan offices when they ought to leave each other alone. A green light indicates that you are free, and open to interruptions. A red one indicates that you are hard at work and should be left alone.

This is a fine idea, but two lights are not nearly enough. The makers should consider adding the following:

Amber light: I am not actually working but definitely plan to start working once I’ve read this status update on Facebook.

Purple light: I am doing a very important task,

but not one that is actually part of my job. This online mortgage application isn’t going to do itself.

Blue light: I am browsing a website that, while not actually pornography, probably features at least one Kardashian in swimwear. We will both be more comfortable if you thus approach from the front, giving me time to pretend I am not.

Pink light: I am sending a bitchy email about the person sitting opposite me to the person sitting next to him. Feel free to approach with caution, provided you don’t let on.

Brown light: I must have eaten something. Maybe that curry last night. I’m not being funny

but you probably just want to send me an email.

Turquoise light: I have left the office but want you to think I have not, and did not have a spare jacket to hang on the back of my chair.

Flashing light: Please interrupt me. I’d interrupt you, but I am too bored with this spreadsheet to even stand up.

Yellow light: Please interrupt the person next to me. She keeps making this weird moaning noise and it’s driving me insane.

No light: My light is broken. Please send help.

Ultraviolet light: I am going on holiday next week and working on my tan.

World

Handful of jihadists halt push

Anthony Loyd joins Kurdish forces trying to take the dam that is key to capturing the Isis capital



Blockaded in the control room of Syria's largest dam, a small group of Isis fighters have held out for weeks against western special forces and their local allies, obstructing a vital line of advance on Raqqa.

The 14 jihadists, part of an elite *ingimassayeen* unit of foreigners, are fighting a rearguard action along a narrow stretch of the Tabqa dam, at the southern end of Lake Assad, despite being encircled by coalition-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in an operation that began at the end of March.

Their presence at the huge dam, where they hold positions in tunnels above and below the waterline, has effectively closed the road over the waterway, forcing their enemies to rely on ramshackle civilian boats and a single barge to cross to the south bank of Lake Assad, where a five-week-old battle for the town of Tabqa is nearing its climax.

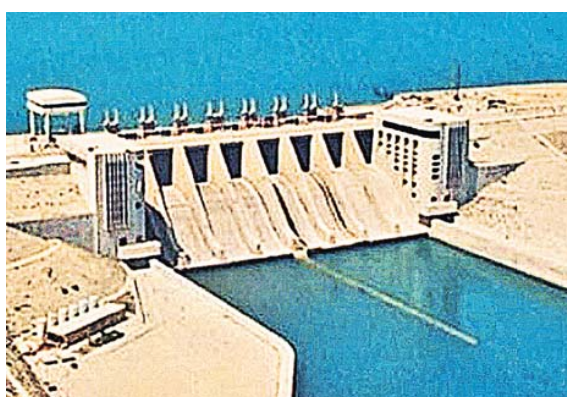
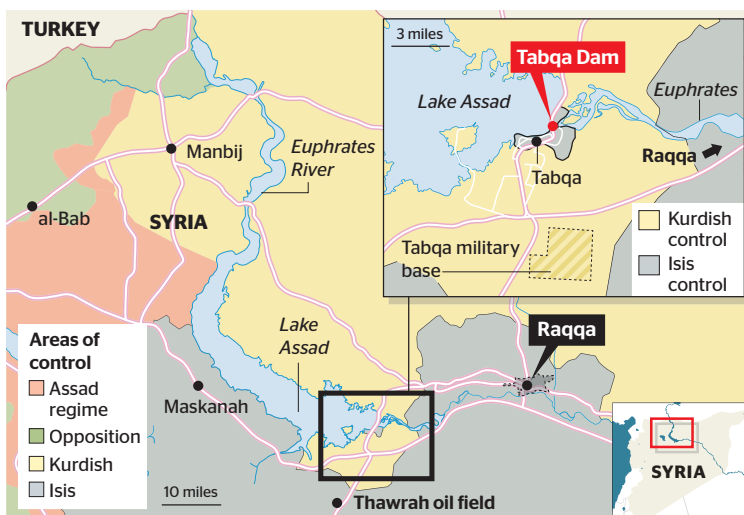
Glowing lines of tracers from heavy machineguns were visible along the top of the three-mile-long dam on the night I crossed the lake in a small boat laden with SDF fighters involved in the fight on the southern shore. The dam and the town are of huge strategic importance; essential platforms for the final push on Raqqa, the capital of Islamic State's self-declared caliphate. It will give the SDF access to a main southern route of advance, allowing them to encircle the Isis stronghold.

"There's 14 of them holding out there, all foreign, mostly Chechens and French-Africans," an SDF commander who uses the alias Qandil Manbij told me. "They still have the control room, the floodgates, and are blockaded deep down in the floors beneath the surface. It is taking a very long time to get rid of them."

It is a common Isis tactic: using small groups of fanatical fighters placed at key positions to halt the advance of overwhelmingly superior numbers, even when backed by coalition airpower. It promises that the battle for Raqqa itself will be a protracted one.

"We have suggested to the coalition that they gas the daesh in the dam tunnels, but they insist they won't do that," Abdullah Aysin, a member of the exiled Raqqa council, told *The Times*. "Instead the coalition have switched off all electricity to the dam, so the daesh there are without light or fresh air, and jammed the radio frequencies to prevent them talking with commanders in Raqqa. But it still might take another month to remove them."

In the nearby town of Tabqa, where thunderous coalition airstrikes echoed throughout the streets in support of the SDF advance, another diehard unit of 50 Isis fighters is holding out in a complex of high-rise apartments in the north of the town. Defended with sniper nests, human shields and improvised bombs, they have attempted to negotiate their withdrawal, along with that of their compatriots defending the dam.



Kurdish fighters, right and below, wait to cross Lake Assad to join the assault on Isis in the town of Tabqa. Control of the dam, left and above left, is seen as vital for the SDF as it closes in on the Islamic State's self-declared capital of Raqqa



Local people said that on Saturday the pregnant wife of a leading Islamist in Tabqa crossed from the Isis lines with a walkie-talkie which was used to parley with the SDF. "The daesh asked us for a three-day ceasefire to allow them to withdraw," Qandal Manbij said. "But we have told them three days is too long. Who knows what the daesh can do in that time? So the talks have broken down for the time being. The battle is down to the final 500 metres, but it's the toughest part."

The Tabqa operation began on March 22 when US special forces and Kurdish fighters, backed by Apache helicopters and howitzers, blitzed Isis positions at either end of the dam and succeeded in capturing most — but not all — of it. A subsequent airborne operation using US helicopters at the start of April established the SDF on the southern bank, from where they have crept forward ever since.

"We've stopped advancing in daylight due to the sniper threat," said Arthur, a Polish volunteer serving with the SDF. "Instead we push at night, and

during the day call in air strikes. Even so, this is taking a long time. When we started we were told it would be a matter of days. Now it's in its second month."

An American volunteer doctor with the SDF in Tabqa, known as Paul, told me that his eight-man medical team had treated more than 300 SDF wounded in the past four weeks, many with sniper wounds.

He said that the sniper kills included a woman commander with the SDF who had her head blown off last week with a heavy-calibre rifle positioned on a high-rise roof.

Another casualty he treated was a high-value Isis emir, terribly burnt in an explosion. "He was brought to me accompanied by some very senior SDF officers," Paul said. "They told me: 'he's important, keep him alive at all costs'. He kept pulling out his IV because I think he wanted to die. I kept jamming it



back in and eventually rode beside him all the way to the boats, one hand clamped on his IV just to keep him alive."

Many civilians fled the fighting to shelter in the desert, but those who remain in the town live without running water or electricity, taking their chances amid the violence.

At one point a ten-year-old boy scrambled up a bank to a canal, tired with waiting for a queue of people drawing water from the pipes they had jerry-rigged below. He filled two large jars with water before a sniper put a bullet over his head, sending him scrambling back down the bank.

Despite the fanatical defence by the last pockets of Isis resistance in the northern end of Tabqa, elsewhere in the town the evidence suggested a hasty withdrawal of the group's leaders, apparently fearing encirclement.

"The daesh started pulling out six weeks ago as soon as the SDF began their advance," said Haris al-Furati, 36, a local man. He was standing outside the

New first lady lays down law to boyish president
Page 31



We are invincible, Putin tells Red Square masses
Page 33

on Raqqa

ANTHONY LOYD FOR THE TIMES; DELIL SOULEIMAN/AP/GETTY



Usama Ibn Zayd school where Isis once trained its infamous child fighters, known as the "cubs of the caliphate".

"Officials, teachers, families, the wives and children of foreign fighters, many emirs — they all left eastwards as soon as the operation began."

Documents in the school office showed that the majority of children who were taught there, aged between 12 and 14, were of Egyptian descent, followed by Uzbeks and French citizens. Textbooks included *Morality and the Mujahidin* and *The Summary of Jihad*. Beside the doodle of a speeding car in one textbook a young Egyptian pupil had written a poem called "The appointed day". It ended with the line: "The suicide car will lighten my world".

In other places in Tabqa coalition airstrikes have left their mark. In one street, civilians showed me five fresh graves in rough ground beside a two-storey apartment building that had been bombed a week earlier. The graves contained the bodies of three children and two adults.

"There was an Isis bomb-making

factory in the building beside it," one man told me, pointing out an undamaged garage next door to the ruined building. "We think the coalition wanted to hit that but killed the civilians instead. Two of the bodies were thrown on roofs a long way away."

Nearby, a small church had been converted into a bomb factory for suicide vehicles. Gas masks and an old ammunition carton sat on the altar while in the adjoining church hall welding gear, sheets of metal and a battery-pack detonator lay on the floor; the tableau overlooked by a painting on the wall of Jesus as a child, staring down through a thin coat of white paint smeared by Isis.

The priest was missing, thought to have been beheaded at the nearby Fatah roundabout, one of two intersections in Tabqa used by Isis for public killings. The only surviving Christian there, Abdu Saghil, 62, converted to Islam on pain of death two years earlier, closely monitored by two Isis officials. "They told me I must pray five times a day or they would kill me," he said.

White House riven over plan for Afghan surge

United States

Rhys Blakely Washington

A rift has opened among President Trump's senior advisers as the commander-in-chief prepares to make a final decision on a proposed "mini-surge" of US troops in Afghanistan.

A plan to halt the Taliban's advance by deploying between 3,000 and 5,000 extra US troops — plus as many again from Nato allies — was expected to lead the agenda when Mr Trump met General HR McMaster, his national security adviser, at the White House yesterday.

The plan was being championed by General McMaster and has the backing of James Mattis, the defence secretary. It faced resistance, however, from a faction of populist West Wing aides led by Mr Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon. They argue that the president risks being duped into the kind of nation-building mission he campaigned against. Opponents of the proposed increase in troops have derisively called it "McMaster's War".

With a decision imminent, stories have been leaked suggesting a fractious relationship between Mr Trump and General McMaster, who is close to Mr Mattis and who was an architect of the Iraq troop surge under George W Bush.

Mr Trump was reported to be "livid" after General McMaster recently called his South Korean counterpart to assure him that the president's threat to make that country pay for a new missile defence system was not official policy. According to Bloomberg, Mr Trump "screamed at McMaster on a phone call, accusing him of undercutting efforts to get South Korea to pay its fair share".

Together with Mr Mattis and Rex Tillerson, the secretary of state, General McMaster is among a group of senior security advisers who have been nicknamed "the grown-ups" in Washington.

Mr Trump released a statement discounting reports that relations were strained: "I couldn't be happier with



Donald Trump's relationship with General HR McMaster is said to be under strain

HR. He's doing a terrific job." In intelligence briefings, however, Mr Trump is said to have complained about "the general undermining my policy".

The US has some 8,400 troops in Afghanistan, part of an international contingent of 13,300. The McMaster proposal would dramatically shift US strategy over the conflict.

American military advisers would be placed closer to front lines to guide Afghan army troops and there would be far more freedom over the use of US air power.

The US military presence would continue until conditions improved — a departure from the Obama White House policy of setting deadlines. There would also be more investment in stabilising the Afghan government.

The aim would be to halt Taliban territorial gains and to push them to the negotiating table. Critics point out that the number of US troops hit a high of 100,000 in 2011 and that even then, peace remained elusive.

Mr Trump is expected to make a decision before a Nato meeting in Brussels on May 25.

While General McMaster is regarded with suspicion by civilian populists inside the West Wing, he is held in high

esteem by American battlefield commanders and was credited with formulating the plan to target a Syrian air base last month.

General John Nicholson, commander of the US-led international force in Afghanistan, said in February that the conflict with the Taliban had reached a stalemate. Analysts say that the Taliban have gained territory in rural areas but have been thwarted in their efforts to overwhelm large cities. Stephen Biddle, of George Washington University, said that the Afghan government was facing a process of "gradual slow decay".

US commanders have already been given greater latitude on tactics. Last month about 300 US Marines formally assumed their mission of advising Afghan forces in Helmand. It was the first time a large Marine unit had been deployed to Afghanistan since 2014, according to the *Marine Corps Times*.

In Nangarhar province US forces have been fighting Islamic State. Last month the US dropped the "mother of all bombs" on a tunnel complex used by the Isis-K or Khorasan wing. In Logar province, Taliban groups are reported to be functioning as a de facto government, collecting taxes and administering services such as education.

Koreans put faith in 'sunshine liberal'

South Korea

Richard Lloyd Parry Asia Editor

A left-leaning liberal who has promised to engage with North Korea and threatened to "say no" to the United States has been overwhelmingly elected president of South Korea, exit polls suggest.

A survey by three of the country's leading broadcasters predicted that Moon Jae-in, 64, had won almost twice as many votes as his closest rival.

The result will put South Korea at odds with the Trump administration at a time of confrontation and military tension with North Korea.

According to the exit poll Mr Moon, of the Democratic Party of Korea, received 41.4 per cent of the vote. Hong Joon-pyo of the conservative Liberty Korea Party was runner-up with 23.3 per cent and Ahn Cheol-soo of the centrist People's Party, who for a while during the campaign appeared to have

a chance of victory, received 21.8 per cent. In contrast to the two-month transition period that follows most South Korean elections, the new president will be sworn in straight away to fill the void left by the removal from office of his predecessor, Park Geun-hye. She was forced out by a court ruling in March after being impeached for corruption and abuse of power.

Voter turn-out at 77.2 per cent was the highest in a presidential election for 20 years. The campaign was overshadowed by concerns about the verbal menaces exchanged by the Trump administration and the North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un.

What Mr Trump called an "armada" of US naval ships, including a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was dispatched to waters off the peninsula. Pyongyang threatened nuclear retaliation if the US acted on hints of a pre-emptive attack on its nuclear and

ballistic missile programmes.

Mr Moon has attempted to play down statements in his autobiography that South Koreans should be prepared to "say no" to the US, South Korea's ally and protector. But he has also made clear that he will stand in the way of any unilateral US military action against the North and wants to take back the right to wartime command over his armed forces from the US.

He will also review the hasty deployment of the US military's Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) shield, a controversial system that has enraged China as well as North Korea.

Mr Moon, the child of refugees who fled the north of the country during the 1950-53 Korean War, served as chief of staff a decade ago to South Korea's last liberal president, Roh Moo-hyun, who pursued the so-called "sunshine policy" of engagement with North Korea.

Roger Boyes, page 24

Hardline Muslims cheer jailing of Jakarta's Christian governor

Indonesia

Richard Lloyd Parry Asia Editor

The Christian governor of Jakarta has been jailed for two years for blasphemy in an unexpected court victory for conservative Muslims in Indonesia, the world's biggest Islamic nation.

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, an ethnic Chinese Christian, best known by his nickname Ahok, was immediately taken into detention after the verdict. As his supporters wept outside the court members of hardline Islamic organisations shouted: "God is great!"

His lawyers said that they would appeal against the conviction which stemmed from a speech that Mr Basuki gave last year while campaigning for election to the Jakarta governorship.

He was defeated in April but remains in office until October.

He had joked about political opponents who cited a Koranic verse, Al Maidah 51, in arguing that a Christian should not hold high office. He said that they had "deceived" their audience, a statement which he argued was directed at his opponents, not towards Islam as a faith. But his words were taken by antagonists as a blasphemous commentary on the Koran by a "kafir", or non-Muslim.

Mr Basuki apologised for causing offence but the outrage against him grew and culminated in large and sometimes violent protests organised by Islamic organisations. At one rally, an estimated 150,000 people demanded his resignation and prosecution.

One man died, and dozens of police were injured in battles close to the presidential palace.

Today's verdict is all the more shocking because prosecutors had only sought a sentence of probation. "In his speech, the defendant considered Al Maidah verse 51 as a tool for lying to the people," one of the judges, Abdul Rosyad, said. "With such an interpretation, the defendant has degraded, harassed and insulted Al Maidah verse 51."

The trial of Mr Basuki has been at the centre of an intensifying political struggle between moderate and secular Indonesians and supporters of conservative Islam, in which the latter have increasingly come out on top.

Mr Basuki was deputy to the former governor of Jakarta, Joko Widodo, who

left the job in 2014 after becoming president of Indonesia. Despite not being elected, Ahok was popular among ordinary Jakartans for his practicality, and his direct manner of speech.

After the campaign against him by conservative Islamic groups he lost the election by a decisive margin to Anies Baswedan, a Muslim and former minister. Mr Anies will take over in October. If Mr Basuki remains in prison his duties will be carried out by his deputy.

"This is bad news for Indonesian minorities," said Andreas Harsono of Human Rights Watch. "If someone like Ahok, the governor of the capital, backed by the largest political party, ally of the president, can be jailed on groundless accusations, what will others do?"

Leading article, page 27

Korea elects 'sunshine liberal' as president

South Korea

Richard Lloyd Parry Asia Editor

A left-leaning liberal who has promised to engage with North Korea and threatened to "say no" to the United States has been overwhelmingly elected president of South Korea.

The National Election Commission said that Moon Jae-in, 64, had beaten his closest rival by 15 percentage points. The result will put South Korea at odds with the Trump administration at a time of confrontation and military tension with North Korea.

Mr Moon, of the Democratic Party of Korea, received 40.2 per cent of the vote. Hong Joon-pyo of the conservative Liberty Korea Party was runner-up with 25.2 per cent and Ahn Cheol-soo of the centrist People's Party, who for a while during the campaign appeared to have a chance of victory, received 21.5 per cent. In contrast to the two-month transition period that follows most South Korean elections, the new president will be sworn in straight away to fill the void left by the removal from office of his predecessor, Park Geun-hye. She was forced out by a court ruling in March after being impeached for corruption and abuse of power.

The election result was "a great victory of great people" who wanted to create "a country of justice", Mr Moon

Moon Jae-in may favour engaging with North Korea



told supporters in Seoul. Turnout was 77.2 per cent, the highest for 20 years.

The campaign was overshadowed by concerns about the verbal menaces exchanged by the Trump administration and the North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un. What Mr Trump called an "armada" of US naval ships was dispatched to waters off the peninsula. Pyongyang threatened nuclear retaliation if the US acted on hints of a pre-emptive attack on its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

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Mr Moon, the child of refugees who fled the north of the country during the 1950-53 Korean War, served as chief of staff a decade ago to South Korea's last liberal president, Roh Moo-hyun, who pursued the so-called "sunshine policy" of engagement with North Korea.

Mr Moon wants to reopen the Kaesong industrial zone, a joint manufacturing project in North Korea that was shut down by Ms Park's government. His inclination to engage with the North has infuriated conservatives. Mr Hong had claimed that voters faced a choice between "a North Korea-sympathising leftist government or a government that can protect the liberty of the Republic of Korea".

Roger Boyes, page 24



Picking up the pieces Hundreds of young chess players from either side of the Alster river in Hamburg compete in the city's annual left shore v right shore tournament

Extremist's wife faces prison for refusing to stand in court

Australia

Bernard Lagan Sydney

The wife of a convicted Islamic State recruiter who refused to stand in front of an Australian judge faces two weeks in jail as a punishment.

Moutia Elzahed, one of Hamdi Alqudsi's two wives, has become the first person in Australia to be charged with disrespectful behaviour in court.

The laws were prompted by a series of cases involving Islamic extremists who refused to stand in court, face judges or magistrates or remove face-covering veils.

Ms Elzahed, who was charged yesterday, had been asked nine times to stand when Judge Audrey Balla entered and left the courtroom at New South Wales district court last year. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 14 days in prison and a \$1,100 fine (£625).

Judge Balla was hearing a lawsuit

brought by Ms Elzahed against police, claiming that she had been assaulted during a 2014 counterterrorism raid on her home in Sydney.

During the hearing Ms Elzahed refused to stand for Judge Balla. Her barrister told the court: "She won't stand for anyone except Allah."

Ms Elzahed also refused to take off her niqab to give evidence unless all the men in the courtroom looked away.

Judge Balla tried to find a compromise by offering to close the court or let her give evidence via videolink but she rejected both offers because she said that she was a strict Muslim and was not allowed to remove her niqab.

She has been ordered to appear for sentencing on June 15. Her lawyer said that she would fight the charge.

Ms Elzahed's husband was jailed for eight years by a court in Sydney last year for arranging for seven men to travel to Syria to fight with Isis.

Fear of sex toy attack led MP to drive car at female protesters

New Zealand

Bernard Lagan

As defences go, it is one of the more unusual. A former minister in New Zealand who hit two protesters with his car has been cleared of careless driving after claiming that he was protecting the deputy prime minister from being attacked with a sex toy.

Chester Borrows, the MP for Whanganui, encountered a demonstration in his North Island constituency on March 22. His passenger was the deputy prime minister, Paula Bennett.

The court heard that it has become popular for protest groups to throw sex toys at politicians. Last year Steven Joyce, the minister for economic development, was hit by a dildo.

Ms Bennett was giving evidence in Mr Borrows's defence against charges of careless driving. She told a court that she had seen a picture on Facebook of a

dildo with her name on it that day. She said she thought it was "quite aggressive". The post included a photo of the sex toy labelled "Paula B" and an image of her, captioned: "See you soon, bitch."

In the MP's statement to police he said that he feared people jumping on his car or trying to open the doors and attack the deputy leader.

One of the demonstrators was seen waving the dildo at Ms Bennett and shouting, "I've got a present for you", the court was told.

The two female protesters suffered minor injuries.

Mr Borrows, a former police officer and courts minister, said that he believed he was driving safely and was not aware that he had hit anyone.

Stephanie Edwards, the judge, said she was satisfied that Mr Borrows's car did come into contact with the two women, but she ruled that he had acted reasonably by not stopping.

I want to be in Macron's gang, says Valls

France

Adam Sage Paris

Emmanuel Macron's attempt to transform the political landscape was boosted yesterday when a former Socialist prime minister said he wanted to join the president-elect's centrist party.

Manuel Valls, 54, left his Socialist colleagues in disarray by saying that he was planning to stand in next month's parliamentary elections for the president-elect's camp. His announcement came with the opposition Republicans also struggling to prevent senior figures from signing up with Mr Macron's République en Marche (Republic on the Move) party.

If Mr Valls had been expecting a

warm welcome, however, he was disappointed. Many Macron backers were hostile and suggested that he might suffer the humiliation of being rejected as a parliamentary candidate.

The move was complicated by the fact that Mr Valls did not explicitly commit to joining Mr Macron's party and the president-elect did not make a statement welcoming him.

The reaction was a reflection of Mr Macron's tense relationship with Mr Valls when they served in President Hollande's government between 2014 and 2016. Mr Valls, then prime minister, liked to portray himself as a French Tony Blair and was furious at being upstaged by the even more reformist Mr Macron, 39, who was economy

minister. During a fly-on-the-wall documentary on Mr Macron's election campaign broadcast on French TV on Monday, Mr Macron was filmed saying that Mr Hollande had been prevented from running for a second term of office by Mr Valls. "It was an impeachment on the inside and real treachery. If there is a traitor and someone who shot Hollande, it's Valls," he said.

Mr Macron is looking to take control of a fast-changing political stage. Aides announced on Monday that the independent movement he founded a year ago was being transformed into a fully fledged party, which would field candidates in all 577 constituencies in the parliamentary election from June 11-18. The president-elect hopes that many

will be defectors from the Socialists and Republicans and predicts that both mainstream parties will split.

In a radio interview Mr Valls, the MP for Evry in the Paris suburbs, said the Socialist Party, which has been in power since 2012, was "dead".

"It's behind us," he said. "Emmanuel Macron is carrying out something that appears essential, which is recomposing politics. What is essential is to give a big majority ... to Emmanuel Macron so he can govern."

However, Jean-Paul Delevoye, who chairs the République en Marche committee responsible for naming election candidates, appeared embarrassed. He said that the party already had a candidate in the Evry constituency. "If Mr

Valls decides to put himself forward we will have to choose whether to maintain our [existing] candidate," he said.

Christophe Castaner, Mr Macron's spokesman during the election campaign, said Mr Valls was "wrong" to suggest that he could automatically stand as an MP for République en Marche. "First he must put his candidacy forward," he said. He later softened his stance, saying: "He has a chance."

Socialist Party leaders were appalled at the defection. Alexis Bachelay, a Socialist MP, said Mr Valls was leaving "for his career and out of opportunism".

Meanwhile Bruno Le Maire, a former agriculture minister, has suggested that he is ready to quit the Republicans and join Mr Macron.

New first lady lays down the law to boyish president

France has been shown how Brigitte Trogneux, its new first lady, coached and chided her husband during his meteoric campaign (Charles Bremner writes).

Ms Trogneux, 64, the president-elect's former school teacher, is protective, critical and ever-present in a fly-on-the-wall documentary shot by a TF1 television unit that spent eight months with the candidate. The 90-minute film, *Behind the Scenes of a Victory*, was broadcast a day after Emmanuel Macron, 39, was elected.

He emerges as a boyish, but calm, boss of enthusiastic young staff, but he defers to Ms Trogneux, the drama teacher at his school in Amiens with whom he fell in love when he was 16. He also talks about the difficulties of having a

much older wife. Unwinding after the first TV debate in April, Mr Macron asks for a chocolate. Ms Trogneux stops him, saying: "I don't want you to eat that rubbish." He meekly asks for water instead.

After he was hit on the head at a farm show by a protester's egg, Mr Macron jokes with advisers and watches football on a phone. His wife asks what he's up to. "Monaco has beaten OM [Marseilles]," he says. "We don't give a damn", she says, trying to take the phone and telling him to take care of a financial matter instead.

Mr Macron often seeks his wife's approval, but she does not always give it. Lying on a sofa after his biggest rally, which drew a crowd of 20,000, he basks in the praise of his staff. He turns to his wife. "Did you like it? Or not?". She does not



TV viewers saw Brigitte Trogneux's influence on her husband's campaign

reply. "Tell me, is it rather yes ... or no? Was it rather yes?" he asks. After a pause, she says: "Darling. We'll talk about it alone. You know that."

Ms Trogneux is also seen rehearsing her former pupil before his speeches.

In another documentary, also broadcast on Monday, Mr Macron explains why he decided in March to broach and deny rumours that he

is gay and involved in a relationship with a senior broadcast executive.

The whole country had heard the false stories, he says. He was furious about the misogyny and homophobia behind the tales, he tells two

journalists. "[They say] it's not possible that this guy who has a wife 24 years older than him is anything but a homosexual or a hidden gigolo," he said. "If I had been 24 years older there would be no fuss. If I was gay, I'd say so."

Niece quits politics over 'leftist' Le Pen

Adam Sage

Marion Maréchal-Le Pen, the National Front MP and niece of Marine Le Pen, the party's unsuccessful presidential candidate, has announced that she is quitting politics "at least temporarily".

Ms Maréchal-Le Pen, 27, said that she wanted to spend more time with Olympe, her two-year-old daughter. She is one of only two MPs for the far-right party and her retirement is a further blow for Ms Le Pen after her defeat in the presidential election.

She was critical of her aunt's leftist economic pledges during the campaign and of her promise to drop the euro in favour of a return to the franc. Ms Maréchal-Le Pen had been seen by activists as a possible party leader but *Le Figaro* reported that she was fed up with the time-consuming nature of politics.

In an interview with *The Times* this year, Ms Maréchal-Le Pen said that she was keen to obtain business experience outside politics. She also complained that her political duties deprived her of the chance to be with her daughter.

Her retirement eliminates a potential rival for Ms Le Pen and will dampen rumours of an internal revolt, but it robs the party of one of its best-known figureheads. Ms Maréchal-Le Pen, who also stood down yesterday as the party's leader in its French Riviera bastions, is popular among rank-and-file members.

Her grandfather, Jean-Marie Le Pen, who founded the National Front, last night accused her of "desertion".

Police seize 37m pills bound for Isis

Italy

Tom Kingston Rome

Italian police have seized 37 million painkilling tablets destined for Libya where they were allegedly due to be sold by Isis to their fighters to give them greater resilience on the battlefield.

The tramadol pills, worth \$75 million to the terror group, were found packed into three containers at the port of Genoa, labelled as blankets and shampoo and set to be loaded on a freighter bound for Misrata and Tobruk in Libya.

"Isis is making a fortune from this traffic, giving it to its fighters to make them feel no pain," an Italian investigator said.

Tramadol, an opioid, is available on prescription as a strong painkiller in the UK, where addiction is on the rise and use of such drugs has doubled in the

past decade. Doctors in Ireland report regular threats from patients desperate for a dose. An addiction epidemic has been reported in the Gaza Strip.

Boko Haram, the Nigerian terror group, is said to feed child soldiers dates stuffed with tramadol before sending them on missions.

Isis is already known for feeding its fighters Captagon, an amphetamine that blocks hunger, fear and fatigue. The Bataclan attackers in Paris, who had a "zombie-like" appearance, were reportedly high on the drug.

Italian investigators traced the tramadol shipment to the Indian pharmaceuticals company Royal International, which allegedly sold the pills for \$250,000 to a Dubai-based importer, which then shipped them from India to Sri Lanka where they disappeared from the freighter's documents. "The

containers were then shipped to Genoa, ready to be delivered to two companies in Libya, which the US Drug Enforcement Administration has informed us are linked to Isis," said the investigator, who declined to be named.

Royal International could not be reached for comment.

Isis has held stretches of the Libyan coastline, but it was considered to be in retreat after its defeat by Libyan militias in the city of Sirte in December.

The tramadol pills would sell for \$2 each in Libya, said the investigator, adding: "It's addictive, but so much cheaper than cocaine or amphetamines, and someone's making a fortune."

Last year police at the Greek port of Piraeus found a container carrying 26 million tramadol tablets, originally from India and allegedly destined for a Libyan company with ties to Isis.

Life's a beach as Greek tax inspectors go undercover

Greece

Anthee Carassava Athens

The couple wearing beach clothes sitting next to you at the bar in Zante, Corfu or Crete may not be all they seem.

Greek tax inspectors will be blending in with tourists, and are allowed to have up to two drinks each, during the summer season, which is expected to attract a million more visitors than last year as holidaymakers shun Turkey.

It comes as Alexis Tsipras's government has agreed to a new batch of austerity measures and tax controls.

Tax inspectors have long posed as tourists but they are expanding their surveillance to beach bars and nightclubs. Local media, billing the crack-

down as "Mission Summer Shorts", said they would also target luxury yachts, concert halls and hotels widely known for breaching labour regulations.

Successive governments have made numerous attempts to beat tax evaders, but so far to no avail. Some Greeks have reacted to the latest crackdown with hostility and even violence.

On the Saronic island of Hydra hundreds of locals, including fishermen, attacked a team of undercover tax inspectors who tried to arrest the owner of a taverna who allegedly failed to give customers receipts.

A study by the Dianeosis research group in Athens showed that tax evasion cheats the state of €16 billion each year — about 9 per cent of GDP.



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Tips for spotting false news.

It's possible to spot false news. As we work to limit the spread, check out a few ways to identify whether a story is genuine.

1. Be skeptical of headlines.

False news stories often have catchy headlines in all caps with exclamation marks. If shocking claims in the headline sound unbelievable, they probably are.

2. Look closely at the URL.

A phony or look-alike URL may be a warning sign of false news. Many false news sites mimic authentic news sources by making small changes to the URL. You can go to the site and compare the URL to established sources.

3. Investigate the source.

Ensure that the story is written by a source that you trust with a reputation for accuracy. If the story comes from an unfamiliar organisation, check their "About" section to learn more.

4. Watch for unusual formatting.

Many false news sites have misspellings or awkward layouts. Read carefully if you see these signs.

5. Consider the photos.

False news stories often contain manipulated images or videos. Sometimes the photo may be authentic, but taken out of context. You can search for the photo or image to verify where it came from.

6. Inspect the dates.

False news stories may contain timelines that make no sense, or event dates that have been altered.

7. Check the evidence.

Check the author's sources to confirm that they are accurate. Lack of evidence or reliance on unnamed experts may indicate a false news story.

8. Look at other reports.

If no other news source is reporting the same story, it may indicate that the story is false. If the story is reported by multiple sources you trust, it's more likely to be true.

9. Is the story a joke?

Sometimes false news stories can be hard to distinguish from humour or satire. Check whether the source is known for parody, and whether the story's details and tone suggest it may be just for fun.

10. Some stories are intentionally false.

Think critically about the stories you read, and only share news that you know to be credible.

Together, we can limit the spread of false news.



Servicewomen march during the Moscow parade marking the anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany. President Putin said the war had been a "monstrous tragedy"

No one can defeat our military, Putin tells Red Square masses

Russia

Tom Parfitt Moscow

President Putin asserted yesterday that there was no country that could defeat Russia as new tanks and other modern weaponry rolled across Red Square to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of victory in the Second World War.

Among the 114 military vehicles on display were new Tor and Pantsir missile launchers that are being deployed to the Arctic to strengthen Russia's presence there as it seeks ownership of huge reserves of offshore oil and gas.

The Arctic hardware was painted in white, grey and black camouflage, with an image of a roaring bear on the front of each launcher. Yars intercontinental ballistic missiles and T-14 tanks also joined the parade.

"The lessons of past war force us to remain alert and the armed forces of Russia are capable of warding off any potential aggression," Mr Putin told the assembled veterans and dig-



Pantsir missile launchers, suitably camouflaged for the Arctic, rumble through Red Square. Mr Putin entertained guests later at a Kremlin reception, left

nitaries. "Today life itself requires us to increase our defensive capability, but for an effective fight against terrorism, extremism, neo-Nazism and other threats it is necessary to consolidate the whole international community."

Mr Putin said that

there "is no, there was no, and there will be no force that can conquer our people". During the Second World, he said, Russians had "fought to the death".

The annual parade marks the anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in 1945 but is also used as a means of demonstrating the nation's current military might. This year more than 10,000 servicemen and women, joined by students from military academies and musicians, marched through the square in Moscow.

Thousands of spectators braved

near-freezing temperatures to watch the parade.

Later in the day hundreds of thousands of people took part in the "Immortal Regiment" march through the centre of Moscow, holding images of relatives who fought in the war. Mr Putin joined in for the third year in a row, carrying a portrait of his father, Vladimir Spiridonovich Putin, who he says escaped the Nazis as a saboteur behind enemy lines by hiding in a swamp and breathing through a reed.

Many of the participants wore replica pilotki, or side caps, and the orange and black St George's ribbon, a military symbol associated with Russian support for pro-Moscow separatists in eastern Ukraine. A scheduled fly-past by bombers, helicopters and fighter jets had to be cancelled because of poor weather. Igor Dodon, the pro-Russian president of Moldova, was the only foreign leader present.

Mr Putin said that the Second World War had been a "monstrous tragedy" and that disunity among the leading powers had been partly to blame for allowing Nazi Germany to "decide the fate of other nations and unleash the cruelest, bloodiest war". Russians as a nationality could have been exterminated if the war had been lost, he said later at a Kremlin reception.

New Islamist video shows beheading of Russian 'spy'

Richard Spencer Beirut
Tom Parfitt

Islamic State has released a video showing one of its jihadists beheading a man it claimed was a Russian intelligence officer.

The video showed a captive identified in a previous propaganda video as Evgeny Petrenko kneeling in the sand wearing a black jumpsuit. His rank has been given variously as captain and colonel, and Russian authorities have never confirmed his identity.

Yesterday they issued a statement for the first time denying he was an active member of the Russian armed forces.

"All servicemen of the Russian armed forces' troops in Syria are alive and well. They are carrying out missions in combating international terrorism in their units," the defence ministry said. "Actions of certain media spreading international terrorist groups' false stories on an ongoing basis arouse condemnation."

The statement did not explain who the victim, who addressed the camera in fluent Russian, might be. There are known to be Russian "contract" or mercenary troops, mostly former special forces, fighting alongside the Syrian regime's army in co-ordination with troops directly under Moscow's control.

The video claimed Mr Petrenko was an agent for the Russian intelligence service, the FSB, who had previously infiltrated jihadist groups in central Asia and the north Caucasus and was sent to Syria to "get close" to Omar al-Shishani, a Chechen Isis leader. In the video the narrator said that Russia had betrayed the man about to be beheaded.

"This idiot believed the promises of his state not to abandon him if he was captured," he said. It is shot against a desert background with a black jihadist flag. The killer's face is clearly visible.

Mr Petrenko first appeared on camera last September, wearing all black, with a cap and a badge declaring him to be an "infidel". He said he was an officer in the FSB but did not say how and where he was captured. He addressed President Putin, reminding him of his "oath" to defend his citizens.

Andrei Krasnov, deputy chairman of the defence committee in the lower house of Russia's parliament, said the murder could have been a propaganda move timed to coincide with the annual Moscow parade to commemorate Germany's defeat in the Second World War.

"Retribution by our state for the murder of one of our citizens is inescapable," he said. "Anywhere in the world."

Google Maps called in to resolve Afghan-Pakistan border dispute

Pakistan/Afghanistan

Hugh Tomlinson Delhi
Haroon Janjua Islamabad

The disputed Durand Line that Britain imposed as the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan was one of the many controversial legacies of colonial rule but after deadly clashes last week Google Maps is being used to refine it.

The end of the 70-year quarrel over the course of the line is in sight because both sides have agreed to use the internet to help settle their dispute.

A new survey is under way. Teams either side of the 1,500-mile border will use satellite footage, ancient maps and

the online mapping service to tweak the line set down by a British diplomat more than a century ago, which has since become one of the world's most dangerous frontiers.

Finalised in 1896 by Sir Mortimer Durand and Abdur Rahman Khan, the emir of Afghanistan, the Durand Line signalled an accord between the two nations after decades of conflict.

Britain was eager to establish Afghanistan as a bulwark against Russian expansion during the Great Game between the two powers for influence in central Asia during the 19th century. However, the line carved through Pashtun and Baloch tribal areas, triggering unrest and another

war between Britain and Afghanistan, during which Kabul, the capital, was bombed by the RAF in 1919. Parts of the border were subsequently changed.

If the two countries can now peacefully resolve a dispute inherited from their forbears and the Raj it could prove a milestone in the greater task of combating the Islamist militancy. Islamabad and Kabul accuse each other of harbouring terrorist groups that strike across the porous frontier. The mountains that straddle the area are home to militants from the Taliban, al-Qaeda, Islamic State and a host of others.

"Terrorism is equally harming both countries and peace cannot be maintained without resolving the border



dispute," Nafees Zakaria, spokesman for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, said. Resolving the row peacefully will not be easy. Assuming adjustments to the line are agreed, people from villages along the border will have to be resettled.

How useful Google will be remains unclear because its maps show borders that meet national demands. For instance in India, it shows the whole of Kashmir under Indian control but in Pakistan, it denotes the Line of Control, the internationally recognised border.

Sartaj Aziz, the veteran adviser on foreign affairs to Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's prime minister, said he was optimistic of an agreement but sceptical of the technology. "Google maps are not authentic and we will use Survey of Pakistan and old maps from defence institutions. There are minor disputes on villages from both sides and we hope that the matter will be resolved permanently through talks," he said.

Music plays instrumental role in protests

Venezuela

Stephen Gibbs Caracas

Supporters of the Venezuelan opposition have praised the bravery of a violinist who appeared in the midst of the chaotic protests to play a perfect rendition of the country's national anthem.

With tear-gas canisters exploding around him, the unidentified shirtless young man, whose helmet was painted the colours of the Venezuelan flag, played on regardless. Fellow protesters



The conductor Gustavo Dudamel criticised Maduro

attempted to shield him from the mayhem. The performance, which has been widely shared on social media, is being seen as a poignant riposte to government claims that its opponents are nothing more than terrorists.

Violins are becoming one of the symbols of the opposition movement after the death last week of Armando Cañizales, an 18-year-old viola player. He was shot in the neck at a protest,



CARLOS GARCIA RAWLINS/REUTERS

Violins have become a symbol of the opposition movement amid the violence

apparently by a plastic pellet fired by a national guardsman. He was a member of El Sistema, a classical music education project whose musicians mostly come from poor backgrounds.

Founded in the 1970s, it is one of the

few institutions in Venezuela that receives support from both sides of the political spectrum. Its Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra has performed in some of the world's great concert halls.

The death of Cañizales has led to rare

criticism by El Sistema of the Venezuelan government. On its official website it states: "Armando was assassinated in the midst of disproportionate violence against unarmed citizens." At his funeral dozens of musicians performed an impromptu violin concert.

The Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel, who was a student at El Sistema and now directs both the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Simón Bolívar, also issued his own strong rebuke of President Maduro. "It is time to listen to the people: Enough is Enough," he wrote in an online essay.

His words surprised many. Dudamel performs for the Venezuelan government regularly and has often appeared with the president in public.

Several Venezuelan stars have spoken out. Nacho, the rapper, attended at least one protest and was filmed choking on tear gas. The footballer Salomón Rondón, who plays for West Bromwich Albion, has called the protesters heroes.

Venezuela is in the midst of the world's steepest recession, blamed on a combination of lower oil prices and chronic economic mismanagement. In the past year, infant mortality soared by 30 per cent, maternal mortality by 65 per cent, and cases of malaria by 76 per cent, according to government figures.

'Prisoner' plea sent to US in Walmart bag

United States

Rhys Blakely Washington

A woman from Arizona claims to have found a note from a desperate Chinese prisoner hidden in a handbag she bought from a Walmart supermarket.

Christel Wallace found the handwritten note, in Chinese, in a pocket that was zipped up. Her daughter-in-law helped her to find a translator, who said that the letter was a cry for help from an abused prisoner in Guangxi.

"Being a prisoner in China is even worse than being a horse, cow, sheep, pig or dog in the US," the letter said. It added: "Inmates in the Yingshan prison in Guangxi are working 14 hours daily with no rest ... and whoever doesn't finish his work will be beaten."

Ms Wallace told the *Arizona Daily Star*: "My heart went into my stomach." She explained that she had made the note public to see if the author could be tracked down.

Walmart said in a statement that it required its suppliers to meet certain standards, including that people were not being forced to work for them.

Delon announces movie retirement

Paris Alain Delon, considered one of the best-looking actors of all time, is to retire. The French star, 81, said that he would make only one more film and act in a play. "It is not the end of my life, but the end of my career," he said. Delon became a star in the early 1960s playing a beautiful, unscrupulous killer in *Plein Soleil*, later remade as *The Talented Mr Ripley*, and starring in Luchino Visconti's *The Leopard* with Burt Lancaster. (AFP)

Hundreds drown in migrant vessels

Rome Up to 245 people, including five children, are feared dead after two vessels carrying migrants sank off Libya. Survivors said traffickers crammed 140 people into a dinghy. The UN reported another shipwreck in which 163 are missing. (AP)

Vice-president's convoy attacked

Juba Gunmen attacked the vice-president's convoy in South Sudan, wounding three of his bodyguards. Taban Deng Gai, who defected from the rebels, was not in the convoy because he was travelling from Juba to Bor by plane. (Reuters)

Fireworks blast kills 12 in Mexico

Mexico City At least 12 people, including five children, have been killed by an explosion at a home in the town of San Isidro, 150 miles east of Mexico City, after a firecracker landed on a large stash of fireworks. Thirty others were injured. (AP)

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Total amount payable	
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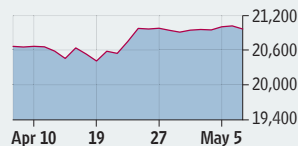
Business

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7,342.21 (+41.35) ▲

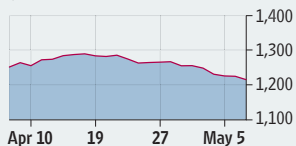


Dow Jones
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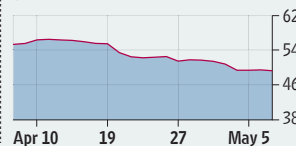


COMMODITIES

Gold
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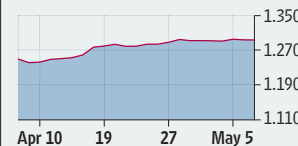


Brent crude (6ppm)
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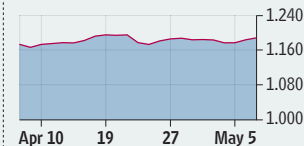


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John Lewis makes a virtue out of how it treats its workers. Partners are able to stay at a number of properties across the UK, including Brownsea Castle in Poole, Dorset

John Lewis takes £36m hit over minimum wage

Partnership is latest retailer to fall foul of rules

Alex Ralph

The employee-owned partnership behind John Lewis and Waitrose has set aside £36 million after discovering that it breached minimum wage regulations.

The department stores chain and grocer said that it was reviewing payments dating back six years and potentially affecting tens of thousands of present and former staff.

John Lewis is the latest retailer to fall foul of minimum wage rules after a crackdown on employers. Tesco said in March that it was reimbursing workers £9.7 million for payroll errors and both Argos and Debenhams have paid back wages this year.

The breach at John Lewis was particularly embarrassing as the partnership prides itself on looking after its staff, known as partners, including through

subsidised stays with families and friends at its country hotels.

The problem centres on its practice of “pay averaging”, which for staff paid by the hour aims to “smooth out” pay over a year to ensure a consistent amount each month.

“This arrangement was implemented to support partners with a steady and reliable monthly income, but we now believe this arrangement may not meet the strict timing requirements for calculating compliance with the national minimum wage regulations”, John Lewis said yesterday.

In most cases the issue concerns staff working higher-than-average hours in some months who technically are being paid less than the hourly national minimum wage. It is likely to include instances where there were five week-ends in a month or when staff worked only during school term-time, but it

means that some stand to be paid back more than their contracted hours.

Sir Charlie Mayfield, chairman, said that the issue was “disappointing, not least because the vast majority of payments to affected partners and former partners relate to technical under-payments rather than actual under-payments of their contractual pay”.

The retailer is reviewing its pay practices with Revenue & Customs, which can impose fines of up to 200 per cent of the money owed by groups that fail to comply with regulations.

John Lewis said that national minimum wage regulations were very complex, but it was “not helped by the complexity in our rota and payroll systems as well as multiple pay elements”.

It said that it had made a provision of £36 million to cover potential payments, as well as employer’s national insurance and pension and other costs.

Pre-tax profits were £452.2 million for the year to January 28, compared with £289.8 million in 2016.

The pay issue comes after the annual bonus for its 86,700 partners was cut for the fourth consecutive year in March to 6 per cent, down from 15 per cent four years ago and at its lowest since 1954.

The fall in the staff bonus has prompted Sir Charlie to waive his £66,000 bonus. Despite a 4.9 per cent rise in his basic pay to £1.1 million, his total pay fell 7.4 per cent to £1.4 million.

The national wage for people over 25 was raised to £7.50 last month. The average pay for non-management staff at the partnership has increased to £8.90 an hour.

Clive Black, of Shore Capital, said the pay breach was a surprise as John Lewis was held up as a paradigm of virtue. “Thirty-six million is not small change,” he said.

Keep rates on hold for now, says Times panel

THE TIMES
SHADOW MPC



Philip Aldrick Economics Editor

Slowing growth and weak wages should deter the Bank of England from raising interest rates this week, but momentum is growing for an increase in the second half of the year, according to *The Times*’s panel of shadow policymakers.

The majority of *The Times* shadow monetary policy committee voted for no change this month and expect the Bank’s *Inflation Report* on Thursday to hold few surprises.

The Bank is expected to leave interest rates on hold at 0.25 per cent and to leave quantitative easing unchanged at £435 billion, but it may trim its GDP forecast for this year from its February prediction of 2 per cent.

In March Kristin Forbes became the first member of the Bank’s MPC to call for an immediate quarter-point rate rise since January last year and she is expected to remain the lone dissenter.

There is more support for an immediate increase on the shadow panel: three of its nine members were in favour. The group, which includes four former Bank policymakers, is designed to provide an expert counterpoint to the official committee. Markets do not expect a majority of Bank MPC members to vote for a rate rise until the second half of 2019.

Andrew Sentance, a former MPC member now at PWC, said: “While the consumer side of the economy is slowing quite significantly, UK growth is likely to be close to trend over the next year or two, supported by a resilient global economy. Inflation is above target and set to rise further. So there seems no reason to hold back from the start of the process of normalising interest rates.”

Sir Steve Robson, a former Treasury civil servant, and Bronwyn Curtis, a governor of the London School of Economics, agreed. Others pointed to soft wages and weaker-than-expected growth in the first quarter.

There was some suggestion that the Bank would wait until the election had passed before reviewing policy, but Anne Sibert, professor of economics at Birkbeck, University of London, said: “The MPC is supposed to worry about the inflation target, not about how it is perceived during the election.”

There was, however, evidence of mounting support for a rate rise before the end of the year among the panel.

Spree nears an end, page 38

Business

Need to know

1 Theresa May has admitted that energy prices could rise every year under her proposed cap, which the prime minister plans to impose because, she says, it would save 17 million households on standard tariffs up to £100 a year. **Page 8**

2 Amazon, the online retailer, has launched a live music business in the UK, running and promoting its own gigs exclusively for Amazon Prime customers in an attempt to attract more people to the premium subscription service. **Page 17**

3 John Lewis Group, the employee-owned partnership that includes Waitrose, has set aside £36 million after discovering that it breached minimum wage regulations over the past six years. **Page 35**

4 Micro Focus, a company often touted as Britain's next technology "champion", suffered a serious stumble when it announced that revenue at the software division of Hewlett Packard Enterprise, which it is in the process of buying, fell by 10 per cent in the third quarter.

5 Companies that conduct internal investigations to root out potential corruption could be forced to assist prosecutors because such inquiries are not necessarily legally privileged. The prospect has been raised by a High Court ruling ordering lawyers for Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation to hand over documents, but lawyers for the London-based mining company said that they would appeal.

6 The National Institute of Economic and Social Research has said that robust growth in consumption last year was coming to an end as the fall in sterling pushed up the cost of imports and filtered through into the prices of everyday goods and services. **Page 38**

7 Roger Matthews, the last of the triumvirate that oversaw Mitie, is to resign as chairman of the cleaning group. **Page 40**

8 BAE, Barclays, ITV and Prudential have been attacked by Pirc, the investor advisory body, for paying their bosses too much, not attaching sufficiently testing performance criteria for long-term awards and failing to provide enough information on how bonuses are determined. **Page 41**

9 Elliott Advisors, the American hedge fund agitating for the takeover of Akzo Nobel by PPG, an American rival, has reported the Dutch Dulux owner's chairman to corporate governance authorities in the Netherlands. **Page 43**

10 Hermes Equity Ownership Services, which advises 20 Volkswagen institutional investors, has advised shareholders to reject a call at today's annual meeting to clear the carmaker's management and supervisory boards of responsibility for actions taken last year and insist on the company publishing findings of its investigation into the diesel emissions scandal. **Page 43**

Software deal is suddenly

Deirdre Hipwell M&A Editor
Alexandra Frean

A company often touted as Britain's next technology "champion" suffered a serious stumble yesterday when a business it is in the process of buying for \$8.8 billion announced a steep fall in revenue.

Shares in Micro Focus fell more than 12 per cent in early trading yesterday, and closed the day down 5.6 per cent at £24.90, after it revealed that revenues in the software division of Hewlett Packard Enterprise had fallen by 10 per cent in the third quarter.

Micro Focus struck an agreement to buy the software assets of HPE last September in the largest deal in its acquisitive history. Kevin Loosemore, executive chairman of Micro Focus, claimed at the time that the deal would create one of the world's largest infrastructure software companies.

He also said that there would be no problems integrating such a large business, telling *The Times* last September that it was a case of "click and repeat, basically", referring to the group's penchant for buying and integrating progressively bigger businesses.

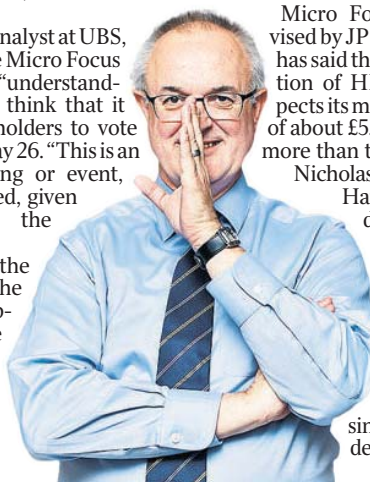
Nevertheless, the City was spooked yesterday and analysts said that the decline in HPE's software division, after a sharp fall in licensing and consulting sales, was "clearly concerning", given the size of the deal.

News of the downturn at HPE also came just over two weeks before shareholders will be asked to vote on the deal and the return of about \$500 million of cash.

Michael Briest, an analyst at UBS, said that the fall in the Micro Focus share price seemed "understandable" but he did not think that it would prompt shareholders to vote against the deal on May 26. "This is an unfortunate happening or event, but it is to be expected, given the magnitude of the change going on."

"In the long term, the accretive value of the deal will still be substantial." However, he

Kevin Loosemore, chairman of Micro Focus, said he was "excited" by the deal



added: "They can't have this happen too often." Revenues were particularly vulnerable at software companies undergoing deals as the upheaval could cause licences to "bounce around", Mr Briest said.

Mr Loosemore said yesterday that he was "excited" about the HPE deal, which is fully funded and has received all its regulatory clearances. "We are encouraged by the early progress that HPE Software's management are making on implementing operational efficiencies and the speed of the change in the business," he said.

"While the short-term decline in licence is disappointing, it is not unusual given the level of change being undertaken."

Concerns have been raised that Micro Focus could have to work much harder to hit its target of boosting profit margins in the HPE operation by more than 20 percentage points in the next three years. Hitting a targeted 40 per cent profit level could mean that Micro Focus would have to sharpen its already well-honed tools for slashing costs and cutting overheads at underperforming businesses.

Mr Loosemore has said in the past that Micro Focus would be able to take advantage of the value in HPE's software business because "we do a lot of boring things. We have a passion for running efficient businesses."

He also has said that his paramount aim is to generate cash returns rather than simply chasing revenue growth, which he believes is an unhealthy "obsession" in the sector.

Micro Focus, which is advised by JP Morgan Cazenove, has said that after the integration of HPE software it expects its market capitalisation of about £5.7 billion to grow by more than two times.

Nicholas Hyett, analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, said that the downturn at HPE's software division was "clearly concerning", but added that the group's shares were still up more than 20 per cent since the \$8.8 billion deal was announced.

Internal inquiries 'may lack legal privilege'

Jonathan Ames

Companies that conduct internal investigations to root out potential corruption could be forced to assist prosecutors because such inquiries are not necessarily legally privileged.

The prospect has been raised by a High Court ruling ordering lawyers for Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation to hand over documents. The lawyers for the London-based mining company described the decision as "unprincipled and illogical" and said that they would appeal against it.

Mrs Justice Andrews backed the Serious Fraud Office this week by finding that litigation privilege did not apply to any of the documents prepared by ENRC as part of an internal investigation into alleged misconduct.

The SFO is investigating corruption allegations against ENRC. The judge's ruling means that although the company may have anticipated a raid by officials and a criminal investigation, this did not constitute "contemplation of adversarial litigation". ENRC has been

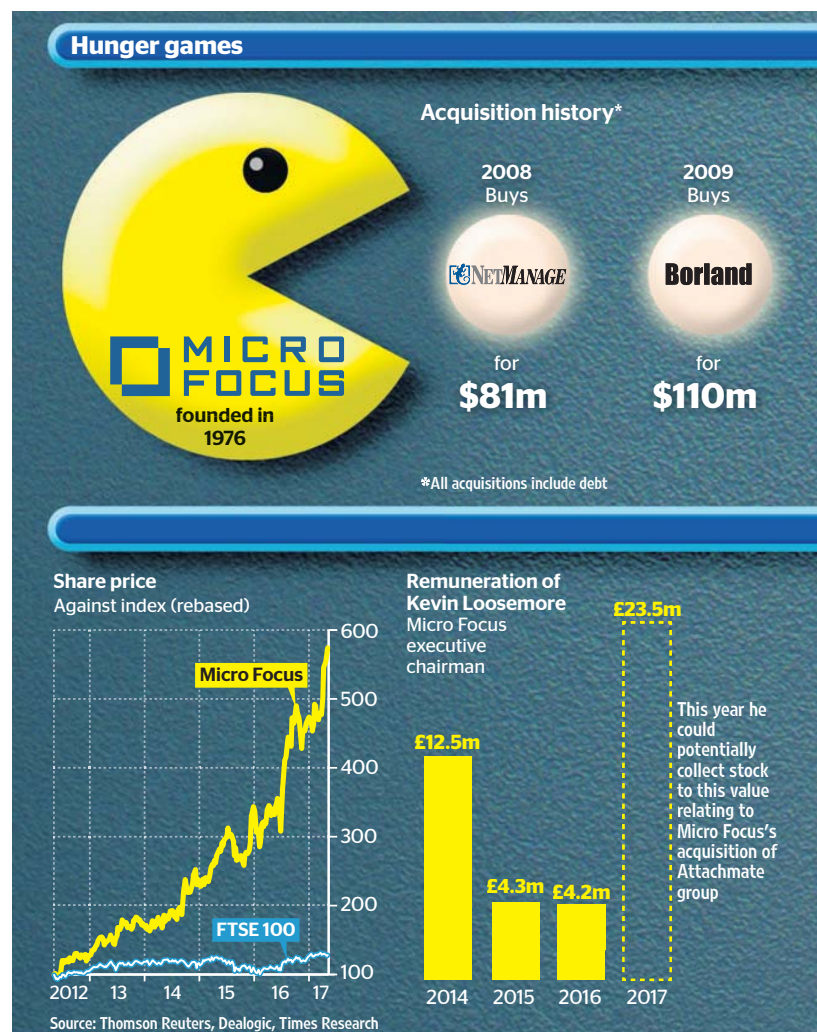
under investigation since 2013 over its activities in Kazakhstan and Africa. The company denies that it has committed any criminal offence and no one has been charged.

The judge ruled that for legal privilege regarding the internal investigation to be invoked, the company needed to anticipate actual criminal prosecution. That means that ENRC executives would have to assume that various allegations could be substantiated before litigation privilege could apply.

Mrs Justice Andrews ruled that litigation privilege can protect only those documents that are prepared with the sole or dominant purpose of conducting litigation. Crucially, privilege cannot protect documents produced with the purpose of enabling advice to be taken in connection with anticipated litigation.

The judge also found that the purpose of avoiding, as opposed to conducting, litigation would not engage litigation privilege.

"The effect of this decision is that it is much harder to claim litigation privi-



Profile

Kevin Loosemore claims he once wondered whether he had made the right career choice when, as a fresh-faced 21-year-old Oxford graduate, he started at IBM only to be given stacks of dusty, dry computer programming manuals to read (Deirdre Hipwell writes). He has had many years and many bumper

pay cheques since to realise that he probably did.

The executive chairman of Micro Focus has made his name with a series of bold and progressively larger acquisitions of rival, often underperforming, software businesses.

Since his company listed in 2005 it has made more than £11 billion of acquisitions and Mr Loosemore's ability to profitably integrate targets has resulted in handsome



Eurasian Natural Resources Company is under investigation by the SFO

lege in the criminal context than in a civil one," Graham Huntley, a partner at Signature Litigation, which acted for ENRC, said.

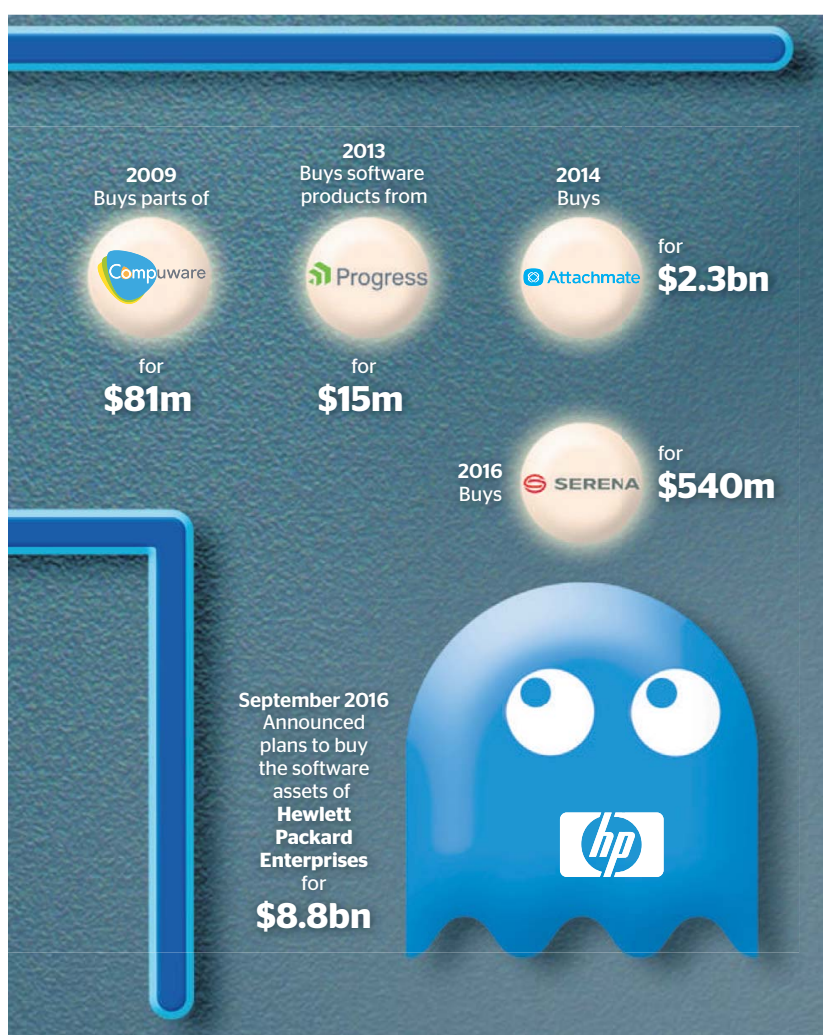
"In the criminal context, the relationship between client and lawyer may involve investigations by the lawyer involving witnesses and others before any formal charges are laid. This judgment signals for the first time that litigation privilege will be unlikely to

protect that legal work, meaning that genuine attempts by clients to investigate allegations will have to be embarked upon knowing that privilege will not cover whatever is produced."

David McCluskey, a partner at Taylor Wessing, a City law firm, said: "What will be of real concern to corporate investigatory counsel is how high the line has been drawn for litigation privilege." He said that companies would be particularly worried because "criminal litigation, unlike civil litigation, is subject to a two-stage public interest and evidential test [and therefore] the standard for determining whether it is reasonably in prospect is higher, and thus, the existence of a formal criminal investigation would not of itself satisfy the standard."

A spokesman for ENRC said: "We are very surprised by this ruling and we will appeal ... because the effect of this judgment is that a party who wishes to consult a lawyer in relation to an SFO dawn raid or criminal investigation is not entitled to the protections afforded by litigation privilege."

harder to swallow



rewards for him and has made Micro Focus a stock market favourite. At the time of the listing, Micro Focus had a market capitalisation of £260 million. It has since risen to £5.7 billion.

Raised in Southampton, Mr Loosemore was the first person in his family to stay in full-time education past the age of 16. The plumber's son read philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford. After working at IBM, De La Rue,

Cable & Wireless and Motorola, he joined Micro Focus as a non-executive chairman before taking on an executive role.

For someone who could "easily pass for a middle manager in an accountancy firm", Mr Loosemore has managed to upset some in the City. His lucrative pay awards (£12.5 million in 2014) have raised eyebrows, as has his joint role running the company on a day-to-day basis and chairing the board.

Bringing new life to ageing technology

Behind the story

Only a few years ago it was a little-known software company operating in the heartlands of Berkshire; now Micro Focus describes itself as a "global software company delivering and supporting software solutions that help customers innovate faster" (Deirdre Hipwell writes).

This means that Micro Focus helps some of the world's largest companies to get the most out of the software and operating systems that they use. Kevin Loosemore, executive chairman of Micro Focus, likens what the company does to maintaining domestic plumbing.

Micro Focus is not a company designing flashy apps and software. Rather, it works with companies to help them to keep their existing, and sometimes ageing, IT systems going for as long as possible while they decide what new software they should invest in, if any. It is a specialist at linking old software technology to new, such as making old cash machines "talk" to the latest banking programs. Working in this sector can be hugely cash-generative, which is why Micro Focus typically has delivered returns of between 15 per cent and 20 per cent to shareholders each year.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise's software division does roughly the same thing as Micro Focus, albeit with revenues that are more than double while its margins are less than half of those of the British company. That explains the rationale for the deal: Micro Focus thinks it can run HPE's software division better. It will have to, especially now that it has hit an unexpected bump in the road after the "disappointing" decline in revenue at HPE Software.

Never knowingly underpaid staff



BUSINESS COMMENTARY Alistair Osborne

Welcome to the John Lewis Partnership. And here's its "ultimate purpose" in life, lovingly detailed in the new annual report: "The happiness of all its members, through their worthwhile and satisfying employment in a successful business."

And how's it go about doing that, you ask? Oh, mainly by breaking the rules over the national minimum wage and underpaying the staff. Yes, the saintly John Lewis, no less, every politician's model company. It's taken a £36 million hit for six years' worth of possible back payments due to tens of thousands of present and former workers.

So will chairman Sir Charlie Mayfield now get the Mike Ashley treatment: hauled before MPs for a grilling over the working conditions on the Waitrose deli counter or in John Lewis soft furnishings? It seems only fair. Surely, the mutual will at least be "named and shamed", just like Debenhams and the local kebab shop, by whoever happens to be business minister that day. How could it possibly avoid that?

Well, maybe because its breach is largely technical. John Lewis was trying to do the right thing. Since 2006, it's been "averaging" pay over a year, so workers receive a "reliable monthly income". Staff liked it, too, not least those who could work only when the kids are at school.

Trouble is it may break minimum wage rules. Or that, at least, is the view of a QC hired by John Lewis after it became alarmed at how not only Sports Direct but Debenhams and Tesco were falling foul of the regulations. One John Lewis staffer also asked for clarification. The upshot? Legal opinion that many of the mutual's 86,700 staff may not count as monthly salaried workers. In fact, they could be so-called "time" workers, the same category as zero-hour staffers, where Revenue and Customs applies strict rules about employees getting exactly what's due each month.

So John Lewis, which also faces a fine, is taking a provision for the six-year period where pay can be backdated. It reflects a rise in the minimum wage from 2011's £5.93 an hour to today's £7.50 and will mean staff being paid twice for the same work. Still, even Sir Charlie says he can't be sure everyone got their due: embarrassing for a mutual that cut last year's staff bonus to only 6 per cent of salary, the lowest since 1954.

Indeed, it's tempting to see it all as another blow for the John Lewis model, which isn't quite as touchy-feely as it seems: dynastically, Sir Charlie gets to choose his own successor. Yet it says even more about the arcane minimum wage rules: John Lewis's average £8.90 an hour for non-managers is well above the going rate. Ministers should remember that next time they rush to name and shame.

Marxism and slob

Now we know who the Competition and Markets Authority had in mind when it accused us all of being Wayne and

Waynetta Slob, too lazy to switch electricity suppliers: Greg Clark. Yesterday the business secretary told the BBC he'd never done it himself, what with it being "quite a hassle to do so".

Think how well that went down with the business department's permanent secretary. Who he? One Alex Chisholm, the former chief executive of the CMA. He joined Mr Clark's department fresh from presiding over the great "energy market investigation", even if he wasn't one of the five members who actually conducted the inquiry.

Their two-year examination resulted in a mere 1,423-page report. A key conclusion? That price caps for the lazy oiks on standard variable tariffs would undermine "the competitive process, potentially resulting in worse outcomes for customers in the long run". True, the CMA panel had one dissenting voice, economist Martin Cave. But you couldn't miss the general drift: switching was the key to SVT customers saving £1.4 billion a year.

Now Mr Clark is going "Marxist", as David Cameron characterised the price cap idea when it was being put about by Labour's Ed Miliband. Who knows, perhaps Mr Clark always ignores his permanent secretary's advice.

Clearing hurdles

Better a lucky jockey than a good one. Officially, Philip Bowcock's been in the William Hill saddle since only March. And look what's happened already: Special Tiara beat 1-5 hotshot Douvan at Cheltenham and Theresa May's called an election, postponing that pummelling for those fixed-odds betting terminals (report, page 41). Not bad from the ex-Cineworld finance chief who clearly learnt a bit from horsey flicks like *Seabiscuit*.

Trading for the first 17 weeks of this year is broadly going in the right direction, too, with double-digit revenue growth in the online, Australian and US divisions and better growth in the shops than from Ladbrokes Coral: a 2 per cent rise in over-the-counter stakes thrashed its rival's minus 7 per cent, even if Hill's margins were worse. Still, it's only one quarter. And, at 302½p, the shares are trading on 12 times earnings. Mr Bowcock is yet to prove he's ahead of the handicapper.

Double trouble

What a pair of killjoys. The prospectus for Standard Life Aberdeen plc has finally arrived, disclosing that it took £97 million in fees to put the £11.4 billion takeover together. And nowhere is there space in the 252-page missive for the one thing everyone wants to know: which of the co-chief execs, Keith Skeoch and Martin Gilbert, is getting paid more? Apparently, they're sticking on their present whack until a new pay policy arrives with next year's AGM. Assuming they're both still there then, of course.

alistair.osborne@thetimes.co.uk

Finance merger leaves 800 without jobs

Harry Wilson, Patrick Hosking

Close to one in ten Aberdeen Asset Management and Standard Life employees are set to lose their jobs as the investment giants prepare to seal their £11.4 billion merger, according to a prospectus published last night.

In what could be a serious blow for the Scottish financial services industry, the companies said that about 800 staff from the combined businesses' 9,000-strong global workforce would lose their jobs over the next three years.

Martin Gilbert, chief executive of Aberdeen, had downplayed the threat of redundancies after the deal was announced and in March described reports that as many as 1,000 could lose their jobs as "exaggerated".

In a stock market filing after the market close last night, the companies said that there would be a "phased reduction" of staff. "Synergies will come in part from employee departures arising from natural turnover. Other appropriate steps will be taken to minimise the number of compulsory redun-

● **Royal Bank of Scotland plans to cut hundreds more roles and to move some jobs to India as its cost-cutting continues (Katherine Griffiths writes). The Unite union said that 334 jobs would go within RBS's technology areas, including Finance Solutions and Natwest Markets Technology. The cuts were "unjustified", Unite said. The taxpayer-controlled RBS disputed the figure, however, saying 92 permanent staff would go. A further 154 people on contracts are being let go, taking the total to 246. RBS will create about 30 roles in India. RBS said: "We're continuing to restructure our back-office support and reducing its size so it's a better fit for our business."**

dancies, including the active management of Aberdeen and Standard Life's recruitment and vacancies," the companies said in the prospectus.

The Edinburgh-based Standard Life and Aberdeen are among the biggest employers in the Scottish financial ser-

vices industry and the prospect of large-scale job losses will cause concern.

Speaking to *The Times* in March, Alex Cole-Hamilton, Liberal Democrat MSP for Edinburgh Western, said that the companies must be upfront with staff about the risk of job losses. "Staff deserve clarity from the outset as to what the merger might meant for them personally and what both organisations will do to mitigate the impact while keeping compulsory redundancies to an absolute minimum," he said.

The news of the job losses came as the two sides confirmed that they had handed their City advisers nearly £100 million in fees for working on the deal. Aberdeen said that its fees would total £36.2 million, while Standard Life said that it would spend £60.8 million.

Once the deal is complete, the combined company will be known as Standard Life Aberdeen and will be chaired by Sir Gerry Grimstone, the chairman of Standard Life. However, in a sop to Aberdeen, a planned investment management subsidiary will be called Aberdeen Standard Life.

Business

End in sight for spending spree fuelled by cheap debt and savings

Tom Knowles

Economics Correspondent

Consumer spending will have “effectively stalled” by next year as Britons respond to rising inflation, minimal wage growth and a slowdown in house prices, a leading think tank has warned.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research said that robust growth in consumption in 2016 was coming to an end as the fall in sterling pushed up the cost of imports and filtered through into the prices of everyday goods and services.

It expects consumer spending to drop from its growth rate of 2.8 per cent last year to 1.5 per cent this year, before shrinking by a further 0.1 per cent in 2018.

Strong consumer spending helped to make Britain the second-fastest-growing economy in the G7 in 2016. However, households have been dipping into their savings or increasing debt amid sluggish wage growth, pushing the nation's saving ratio to a record low.

The think tank believes that people will respond by paring back spending, meaning that consumption will deduct 0.1 percentage points from the economy's growth in 2018.

Simon Kirby, an economist at the institute, said: “We will begin to see a sizeable reduction in the contribution coming from consumer spending growth to overall GDP growth in the UK through 2017 and in particular into 2018.

“Crucially, we don't assume wages will keep pace with the rising consumer prices inflation and, with the savings ratio at near-record lows, we don't expect households to dip further into savings in order to maintain spending.”

The think tank, whose analysis is closely monitored by the Treasury and the Bank of England, said that this would cause house prices inflation to stagnate by 2018, “driven by the decline in demand attributed to the rise in real incomes”, which will mean that Britons have less wealth attached to their homes, reducing incomes further.

However, it now expects inflation to peak at a slightly lower rate of 3.4 per cent by the end of this year, compared with an estimate of 3.7 per cent made three months ago, owing to the steady appreciation of sterling over the past three months. This is still considerably higher than the Bank of England's estimate of 2.7 per cent. The institute expects the economy to grow by 1.7 per cent in 2017, down from 1.8 per cent last year, and to rise to 1.9 per cent in 2018.



JACK TAYLOR/GETTY IMAGES

Shoppers have dipped into their savings or taken on extra debts to keep up their spending amid a slow increase in wages

One in ten fear working until 85

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

Ten million workers fear that they will be forced to delay their retirements, a study has found.

Seventy-three per cent of employees believe that they will have to work beyond 65, up from 67 per cent asked the question in 2016, representing an increase of three million people in a year.

The survey for the insurer Canada Life also found that one in ten expected to keep working until they are 85.

Growing expectations about life expectancy and rising care home costs mean that people fear they will need to raise the amount of money they will

need to put by. The findings come as the general election prolongs the uncertainty for younger people about when they can expect a state pension. A decision on when to raise the state pension age to 68 was due this month, but now will not be made until the new government has formed.

From December next year, the qualifying age starts to rise for both men and women, reaching 66 in 2020 and 67 some time between 2026 and 2028 under existing legislation.

Respondents cited poor pension planning and poor returns on their savings for having to defer retirement, while 34 per cent said that they enjoyed their jobs and wanted to work for as

long as possible. The biggest challenges to working for longer were seen as health, cited by 57 per cent, energy levels, mentioned by 48 per cent, keeping up with technology, a concern for 21 per cent, and coping with the daily commute, a bugbear for 19 per cent.

Paul Avis, marketing director at Canada Life, said: “Savers have suffered from paltry returns ever since interest rates fell to 0.5 per cent eight years ago. This is having a direct impact on UK workers' retirement plans.”

While returns from savings accounts have been poor, returns from shares, bonds and property have been relatively strong over the past eight years.

Bank ‘may be forced to abort interest rate rises’

Philip Aldrick Economics Editor

Raising interest rates could have such a destabilising impact on Britain's housing market that the Bank of England would have to abort the policy, a former Bank official has warned.

Sushil Wadhvani, a member of the Bank's rate-setting committee from 1999 to 2002, said that the UK, along with many other developed countries, was caught in a debt trap that threatened to paralyse central banks.

“The risk we need to worry about is that we have a debt trap and whether we are actually going to manage to raise interest rates very much because it will have quite a destabilising impact on the housing market, that might abort the rate-hiking cycle,” he said.

The US Federal Reserve also might have to abandon its fledgling rate rises as the end of cheap money may cause problems in the equity markets where much of America's wealth is tied up, he said.

Mr Wadhvani, 57, was speaking at Fathom Consulting's quarterly outlook, where the asset manager produced analysis showing that high levels of debt are damaging for GDP growth.

The total stock of UK debt held by non-financial companies, households and the state is about 1.8 times GDP, up from 1.5 times on the eve of the financial crisis. British household debt, including mortgages and consumer credit, is at a record £1.5trillion, equivalent to four fifths of GDP. Adding to a country's debt when the stock is low helps growth to accelerate, but it has no effect at high levels, Erik Britton, Fathom's director, said.

Rates across the developed world are close to zero, with the Fed the only leading central bank to have started tightening policy, with three quarter-point rises over the past two years.

Mr Wadhvani claimed that zero rates and unconventional tools such as quantitative easing threatened to undermine central bank independence. “Extensive use of negative rates is very corrosive to confidence,” he said and policies such as QE make “independence less plausible”.

Mr Wadhvani also said that President Trump may overhaul the Fed's policy board by replacing many senior officials with “completely off-the-wall candidates” as their terms expire over the next 18 months. “He wants to make America great again and so he may not want anyone to spoil the party [by raising interest rates],” he said.

Merger confirms towering ambition of insurance broker

Katherine Griffiths Banking Editor

Towergate will merge with four other insurance businesses to boost its status to that of Britain's largest independent broker.

The move comes after a turbulent period for Towergate that included a dramatic refinancing and cleaning up of its business over the past two years.

HPS, formerly known as Highbridge Principal Strategies, and Madison Dearborn Partners, the American private equity groups, will merge the businesses that they own into one company.

The new group will include Autonet, Britain's largest specialist broker for van drivers, Chase Templeton, a medical

insurance broker, and Ryan Direct, which provides underwriting, claims management and policy administration services. The internationally focused Price Forbes will also be a member.

The enlarged group will employ 5,000 people and will generate annual revenues of about £500million. It will be chaired by John Tiner, a former Financial Services Authority chief executive, who is chairman of Towergate.

David Ross, Towergate's chief executive, who will have the same role in the new group, said that the reorganisation would turn a “regional mid-market broker into a powerhouse”. Its competitors would be international groups such as Willis and JLT. He

added that Madison Dearborn Partners' investment in Towergate shortly after the Brexit referendum had been a vote of confidence in Britain that had put the company six months ahead of where it thought it would be. The Chicago-based MDP bought a 23 per cent stake in Towergate in September after buying shares from existing investors for an undisclosed sum.

Insurance brokers have been under pressure from customers, who are increasingly using the internet for personal policies, while excess capital flowing into commercial insurance has depressed prices.

The new group will have considerable “buying power ... and cross-selling opportunities”, Mr Ross said. The divi-

● Hiscox has picked Luxembourg for its base in the European Union in order to continue to write business on the Continent after Brexit (Katherine Griffiths writes). It said that it had chosen Luxembourg because of its pro-business position, strong regulatory base and central European location.

The company, which insures a broad range of risks including fine art and oil refineries, said that first-quarter written premiums had risen by 17 per cent to £751million. It has been trying to develop its retail offering, where premiums rose by 13 per cent to £126million.

Tempus, page 46

sions will continue to operate under their existing names. The new group will be called KIRS for the moment, but will be relabelled.

Towergate underwent a painful restructuring 18 months ago that led to unsecured creditors being wiped out as the business agreed a debt-for-equity swap to avoid collapsing under the weight of its debt-servicing costs.

HPS became a shareholder in Towergate as part of the restructuring. It said yesterday that it had not sold any of its shares to MDP.

Towergate, which was founded by Peter Cullum in 1997, expanded rapidly by acquiring more than 100 smaller brokerages. Mr Cullum left the company in April 2015.

David Smith

Arbitrary tax increases could kill the goose that lays the golden eggs

Imagine you are a politician trying to devise a tax policy that will be popular with voters. You are aware that there are many more right-handed people than left-handers, roughly seven to one. So you propose additional taxes on the left-handers, while pledging that the right-handers will see no tax increases at all.

Would it work? Some right-handers, while perhaps relieved, would worry that this was the thin end of the wedge and that their turn would soon come. Others would wonder how taxing only the left-handers more could pay for additional public services while simultaneously reducing the budget deficit.

It sounds like a daft idea. Scarcely less daft, however, is the Labour party's actual policy. John McDonnell, the shadow chancellor who in his many radio and TV appearances manages to sound disturbingly avuncular while also citing *Das Kapital*, wants to increase taxes on the roughly 5 per cent of people who earn more than £80,000 a year, while pledging that the other 95 per cent or so — many of whom do not presently pay any income tax at all — will not see their tax go up.

Labour is said to have been irritated that reporting of the pledge has focused on the 5 per cent who will see their taxes go up rather than the 95 per cent. But when a party chooses an arbitrary figure, £80,000, above which it has determined that taxes should go up, the reporting has been entirely correct.

The top 5 per cent of taxpayers already carry the burden of the income tax system, paying 47.1 per cent of income tax revenues in 2016-17, according to Revenue & Customs. Nobody will shed any tears for them, but the further up the income scale you move, with the exception of the mega-rich, the weaker the growth in real incomes in the past decade, as the Institute for Fiscal Studies noted the other day.

The proportion of income tax paid by those on lower incomes has fallen since the financial crisis, despite a rise in their share of pre-tax income, as a result of deliberate tax policy. The income share of the top 5 per cent has fallen since 2007-08, but their share of income tax revenues is up, from

43.4 per cent to 47.1 per cent. Trying to squeeze more out of them risks killing the goose that lays a lot of golden eggs.

This arguably is a greater danger now than at any time in recent years. Every City firm I meet is thinking hard about what it will need to do about the location of its staff in the context of Brexit. The reason most have engaged so far in warnings rather than solid decisions is that they are in the dark about the kind of settlement the government will achieve. As long as they remain in the dark, however, some will have to act in advance of the deal.

There was a time when, alongside other factors, Britain's low personal taxes were a powerful magnet for the City. Though it is commonplace now to regard the City's success and its place as Europe's financial capital as unbroken and unchanging over centuries, two events three decades ago led to its modern success. One was the Big Bang in 1986, which opened a sheltered City up to large-scale overseas investment and international investment banks. The other was the Thatcher-Lawson tax cuts of 1988, which reduced the top rate of income tax to a highly competitive 40 per cent. Faced with punitively high personal taxes at home, talented European financial specialists flocked to London.

That advantage has been eroded. Many in the City earn a lot less than £150,000, and for that matter £80,000, but Labour's 50 per cent additional tax rate on incomes above £150,000,



Taxing higher earners more would leave the goose well and truly cooked



announced before the 2010 election, broke the two-decade cross-party pact on income tax. Had it remained in place, there would have been considerable damage to the City. George Osborne's reduction in the additional rate to 45 per cent, announced in 2012, saved the day, but he left in place a quirk in the tax system under which, thanks to the income-related withdrawal of the personal allowance, incomes between £100,000 and £123,000 are taxed at a marginal rate of 60 per cent.

Mr McDonnell would go further in taxing those on higher incomes, though he has not specified how much further. At a time when Britain needs all the tax revenues it can get (and already faces the loss of some of those revenues as a result of the effects of Brexit on the City and the shift to continental Europe of some of the Square Mile's taxpayers), this would be an own goal of significant proportions. The low-tax pull of London would be further diminished. The golden goose would be well on its way to being truly cooked.

Labour, of course, does not expect to be in government after June 8. Its tax proposals, like those of the Liberal Democrats — a penny on all income tax rates to pay for extra NHS and social care funding — are the political equivalent of virtue signalling, rather than policies they expect to carry out. They will be used as sticks to beat the May government in the coming years, on the argument that only the opposition parties were honest about the hard choices needed.

Theresa May will not worry too much about that, although she should worry about some of the things she is putting in her own manifesto. In 2015, David Cameron made unwise promises in the expectation that they would end up on the coalition cutting-room floor. Mrs May has no such excuse for her dodgy price cap on standard variable energy tariffs and unworkable pledge to reduce net migration to less than 100,000 a year. On that one, she probably had no alternative but to stick with a target that has no chance of being met. It still does not make it a good policy.

David Smith is Economics Editor of The Sunday Times

Alexandra Frea

Technology can be the answer for companies putting their people first

It is sometimes said that presenteeism can be more costly to corporations than absenteeism. A disengaged and unhappy worker can make mistakes, poison the atmosphere and create more work for others.

Yet while there seems to be little doubt that a fulfilled, motivated and emotionally healthy workforce is likely to be more productive, the suggestion that most of us are stuck in bad or miserable jobs and that all we need to do to boost productivity is to make everyone more contented at work needs to be treated with caution.

Just under a decade after the start of the most sustained economic downturn in living memory, British unemployment, at 4.7 per cent, is at a 12-year low. Some critics argue that much of the surge in



employment has been at the cost of job quality, but the evidence suggests that this is true only for certain workers.

After all, employment stability has been fairly constant, or rising, for years. This has been thanks, in part, to the recession sparked by the financial crisis: when the jobs market is weak, people hold on to their jobs. But there are also longer-term and more welcome developments at play, such as the number of women returning to the same employer after having children and people remaining in work until a later age.

In his annual lecture last night, Matthew Taylor, chief executive of RSA, stated quite reasonably that all work should be "fair and decent". However, he also suggested that there was a growing ambivalence towards the notion of "good work" and whether it is universally achievable.

He shouldn't be so despairing. In fact, the very technology and robot-driven evolution of the workplace

that many fear is relegating a growing number of people to dissatisfying jobs is also giving rise to a seismic, and potentially positive, shift in how people are treated at work.

"People Analytics", a discipline that started as a way of measuring employee engagement and retention, has gone mainstream and is close to offering solutions to many of the problems that Mr Taylor and others identify. Companies are investing heavily in programs to use data for all aspects of workforce planning, talent management and operational improvement. It may sound like snooping, but think of it as a means of allowing the boss, finally, to pay attention to you as an individual and to what makes you different from your colleagues. Used properly, such tools can measure employee needs and engagement and feed into the way that jobs are designed and teams are put together. They could also help companies to pick up and address issues such as mental health problems, which cost the UK about £84 billion a year through lost productivity, care and benefits costs.

Mr Taylor is right to say that the existence of in-work poverty means that the government's promised, but delayed, industrial strategy needs to be about low-skilled, low-paid jobs in care, retail and hospitality, as well as top-end, high-technology areas. We must also accept that there are deep pockets of insecurity as involuntary part-time and temporary working, less secure self-employment and zero-hours contracts have grown. The spectre of artificial intelligence taking over middle-skilled jobs suggests that this insecurity might increase.

It is unhelpful, though, to suggest that misery at work is universal and that things have never been worse. There never was a golden age of happy employees. People's expectations are changing and awareness of and willingness to admit to issues such as stress are now greater. It should not be beyond the imagination of employers and regulators, aided by technology, to identify the problems that bite hardest and to deal with them in a targeted way.

Alexandra Frea is Business Columnist of The Times



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Business

Matthews is last to go in Mitie clean-up

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The last of the triumvirate that oversaw the rise and fall of Mitie is to leave the company. The cleaning group is placing its faith, instead, in two self-made northern businessmen with a reputation for plain-speaking.

Laid low by a disastrous move into homecare for the elderly, the brainchild of the group's now former chief executive Baroness McGregor-Smith, and entangled in accounting controversies,

Matthews was going. A former finance director of J Sainsbury who had held senior roles at Compass, Cadbury Schweppes and Grand Metropolitan, Mr Matthews had been chairman for nine years.

He follows Lady McGregor-Smith, who left last autumn three weeks after a profit warning that sparked a 30 per cent share price crash and a month before Mitie wrote off the value of Mi Homecare, worth £128 million.

Suzanne Baxter, who had been finance director since Lady McGregor-Smith became chief executive in 2007, left Mitie after Mr Bentley arrived.

In addition to a big investigation into Mitie's accounting over when it books profits, which has led to £70 million of further writedowns, Mr Bentley, 58, who made a fortune running Cable & Wireless and British Gas, made waves with a £3.5 million bet that he would get Mitie's shares trading higher than 194p.

Analysts said that the relationship between Mr Mapp, 66, a former head of Sport England, and Mr Bentley will be key to Mitie's future.

Larry Hirst, Mitie's senior non-executive director, said that Mr Mapp would pose "a strong challenge to the management team."

At 240½p, up 2½p on the day, Mitie has delivered Mr Bentley an £820,000 profit on the £3.5 million of shares he acquired at his appointment. There was no statement on whether Mr Mapp would be acquiring any Mitie shares.

Mitie share price



Mitie has said that Roger Matthews, its chairman, will leave in two months.

He will be replaced by Derek Mapp, a friend of Tony Blair best known for entrepreneurial start-ups as diverse as Tom Cobleigh pubs and Leapfrog Day Nurseries. More recently he has run the board of Informa, the FTSE 100 conference organiser and *Lloyd's List* publisher. Mitie said that Mr Mapp has been brought in to counterbalance Phil Bentley, the former British Gas boss it hired as chief executive last autumn.

Mitie had given no hint that Mr

CITY PEOPLE

The feuds, the faces and the farcical
Dominic Walsh @walshdominic

Business big shot

NAME
DOUGLAS FLINT
AGE 61
POSITION
BOARD MEMBER,
CENTRE FOR
POLICY STUDIES



Douglas Flint clearly has put a lot of thought into his first job after HSBC (Katherine Griffiths writes). He is to join the board of the Centre for Policy Studies, the think tank founded in 1974 by Margaret Thatcher and Keith Joseph. Since then it has become a somewhat broader church of free-market principles. And it promises to be interesting new territory for Mr Flint, who at HSBC has steered a ship that insists it is politically neutral.

Mr Flint, 61, hands over HSBC's chairmanship to Mark Tucker, the former Prudential chief executive, at the end of September, having taken up the role in December 2010. He has worked at the bank for 22 years, mainly as its finance director. The Scotsman intends to reserve time for practising his neglected golf swing.

PARK LIFE COMES AT A PRICE IN UPMARKET MAYFAIR

Since he sold Wagamama two decades ago, Alan Yau has created some remarkable restaurants, mostly in London. Establishments such as Hakkasan, Yauatcha, Busaba Eathai and Duck & Rice are all very different, but one thing they share is flair. They also reflect the Hong Kong-born entrepreneur's pursuit of perfection, regardless of cost. His most recent creation, Park Chinois, is a case in point. According to newly filed accounts, the opulent restaurant on Berkeley Street made a loss for the year of almost £6 million. In an interview after it opened, Mr Yau said that the project had cost more than £30 million, but added: "I can't tell you the precise numbers because it is slightly embarrassing."

DISH OF THE DAY

Today is the deadline for the Competition and Markets Authority to opine on Just Eat's £240 million acquisition of Hungryhouse, its closest rival in Britain. Cue a flood of emails, well two, from



legal "experts" offering comment on the decision. So will the deal be cleared or will it be referred to an in-depth phase two investigation? The phrase "sitting on the fence" just about covers it.

HOTTEST TICKET IN TOWN

The cream of the accounting profession will descend on Excel London over the next two days for Accountex, the industry exhibition and conference. At least 6,500 beancounters are forecast to "pack the aisles checking out the latest new products, services, insights and working solutions". Clearly an enticing couple of days in prospect for the "Who's Who of the accountancy world". Wonder what the collective noun is for such a gathering of accountants. A murder? A squabble? A murmuration?

THE OLD ONES ARE THE BEST

Alan Joyce, the Irish-born chief executive of Qantas, is cool under fire. At a briefing in Perth to talk about the carrier's decision to run the first non-stop London-to-Australia flights, somebody walked up behind him and thrust a pie in his face, left. After calmly popping off to wipe his face, he returned to a round of applause. "If there are any more pies," he said, "can you get it over with now?"

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Joshua win gives bookie a fighting start to the year

Philip Bowcock came out punching in his first outing since taking charge permanently at William Hill (Dominic Walsh writes).

Britain's second-biggest bookmaker, which sponsored Anthony Joshua's recent fight with Wladimir Klitschko, reported a 9 per cent increase in net revenues in the 17 weeks to April 25, on the back of a 16 per cent jump in online revenues and strong growth in its Australian and American operations.

It also scored a first-quarter points victory over Ladbrokes Coral by reporting retail net revenues up 1 per cent. Less than a week ago its rival blamed tough conditions for a 2 per cent fall in such revenues as over-the-counter stakes dropped by 7 per cent.

William Hill's retail

business suffered a hit from punter-friendly football results, but these were offset by the success of less fancied runners at the Cheltenham Festival, including Special Tiara, the 11-1 winner of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, and Sizing John, the 7-1 winner of the Gold Cup.

Shares of William Hill rose by 2p to 302½p on the London Stock Exchange.

Mr Bowcock, who became chief executive in March having done the job on an interim basis since James Henderson was dismissed last July, said that the company had enjoyed a positive start to the year, especially online.

He said that improvements in products and customer experience were bearing fruit, while simplified registration processes



The Joshua v Klitschko fight generated a record turnover across the betting industry of more than £25 million

had helped to deliver a 24 per cent increase in new accounts during the Cheltenham and Grand National meetings.

Mr Bowcock said that

the company was on track with its turnaround plan, including £40 million in annual cost savings.

However, he noted that

the betting industry was having to swallow a new 10 per cent levy on online UK racing profits to help to fund racing, which would cost

William Hill £5 million between April and December.

The industry is also awaiting with some nervousness the results

of the government's triennial review on stakes and prizes on the lucrative betting shop machines found in most high street bookmakers. The proposals are tipped to include a cut in the maximum stake of £100 a spin, although the review has been delayed until the at least the autumn as a result of the general election.

William Hill said that the Joshua v Klitschko fight had generated turnover across the betting industry of more than £25 million, a record for a boxing match.

More than 50 of Britain's racecourses have signed up to an agreement to introduce their own pool betting service in July next year when the contract with the Tote expires. The service will replace the Tote, which is owned by Belfred, at 54 of the country's 60 courses, including Aintree, Cheltenham, Epsom, Newmarket, Chepstow and Lingfield. All profits will remain within racing. The project is being led by a steering board chaired by Neil Goulden, the former Gala Coral boss. Tempus, page 46

Pressure grows on insurers to make switch in approach

Katherine Griffiths Banking Editor

Insurers should be forced to make it easier for customers to opt out of automatic policy renewals, which can be hundreds of pounds more expensive than switching, it has been claimed.

Moneysupermarket, the price comparison website, yesterday urged regulators to prevent insurers demanding that policyholders call them and go through several steps to stop policies rolling over from one year to another.

Consumer groups and politicians are angry with insurers over the price of home and car insurance for loyal customers, which can be two to three times higher than for new customers. There is a view that if insurers do not improve, they could face a response similar to the government's plans for price caps on the energy sector.

Moneysupermarket, which makes its money from switchers, has found that just over half of people with car cover renew with their existing provider but could save up to £275 from shopping around. Dan Plant, editor in chief of Moneysupermarket, said: "Older people tend to auto renew for longer, sticking around for four to five years."

The Financial Conduct Authority required insurers from April 1 to inform policyholders of last year's premium when giving them a new quote for renewal, highlighting any price increase.

Many believe that this has not gone far enough. Dominic Lindley, an independent consumer campaigner, said: "Despite a regulatory requirement to treat customers fairly, insurers ruthlessly exploit their loyal customers by hiking premiums."

Investor group calls for revolts over bosses' pay

Harry Wilson City Editor

Shareholders in four of Britain's biggest companies have been advised to vote against the pay of their senior executives by a leading investor group, which warned that bonuses had become excessive.

BAE, Barclays, ITV and Prudential have been attacked by Pirc for paying their bosses too much, not attaching sufficiently testing performance criteria for long-term awards and failing to provide enough information on how bonuses are determined.

The investor advisory firm called on its clients to vote against the companies' remuneration reports, opening the way for a shareholder rebellion at the businesses.

Pirc, whose clients manage assets worth more than £1.5 trillion, criticised the variable pay of Mike Wells, chief executive of the Pru, after he was awarded bonuses equal to 432 per cent of his £1.08 million salary, giving a pay ratio to the insurer's average employee of 73:1.

Shareholders in ITV were told that bonuses worth 239 per cent of his basic pay for Adam Crozier, the outgoing boss of the broadcaster, were too high and Pirc described the 46:1 ratio of his earnings to other workers at the broadcaster as "inappropriate".

At Barclays, Pirc warned that the 200 per cent cap on bonuses for the bank's executive directors was still too much because of the high level of fixed pay it awarded its most senior managers, which include guaranteed cash and share allowances. Only Ian King's pay at BAE was judged to be appropriate by

Shareholder rebellions

Crest Nicholson, March 23

Against: 58.1 per cent
Concerns that company's performance targets were too easy for senior executives to hit

Drax, April 13

Against: 33.6 per cent
Revolt over £1.4 million shares awarded to Will Gardiner, finance director, and pay for chief executive Dorothy Thompson, up 27 per cent to £1.6 million

Astrazeneca, April 27

Against: 38.8 per cent
Revolt over a 68 per cent surge in chief executive Pascal Soriot's total pay to £13.4 million

Carillion, May 4

Against: 20.1 per cent
Continuing dispute over high levels of boardroom pay

Inmarsat, May 4

Against: 48.9 per cent
Revolt over size of bonuses awarded to Rupert Pearce, chief executive, and Tony Bates, finance director

Ladbrokes Coral, May 4

Against: 24.8 per cent
Pirc engineered a revolt against a pay rise awarded to Jim Mullen, chief executive

Pearson, May 5

Against: 65.6 per cent
Revolt over pay of John Fallon, chief executive, after record loss

Man Group, May 5

Against: 28.2 per cent
Long-running shareholder dispute over pay of senior executives

the shareholder advisory group. However, Pirc denounced the 775 per cent of his salary that Mr King is eligible for in bonuses and added that the defence group's long-term incentive award schemes were too complex.

The City will not have to wait long to see whether investors will heed Pirc's advice, with BAE, Barclays and ITV directors all facing shareholders today at their annual meetings.

As well as pay, Pirc has recommended votes against top directors of the companies. Investors have been advised to vote against the reappointment of Sir Peter Bazalgette, chairman of ITV, and Paul Manduca, chairman of Prudential.

In addition, shareholders have been advised to abstain on reappointing a trio of directors at BAE, including Harriet Green, the former boss of Thomas Cook.

There have been significant shareholder rebellions over executive pay already in this year's AGM season. Last week about two thirds of investors in Pearson voted against the publishing company's pay report, which included a 20 per cent pay rise for John Fallon, its chief executive, despite the business making a record loss.

The rebellion was the biggest to have taken place at a British company since an investor uproar at Royal Bank of Scotland in 2009 over the pension of Fred Goodwin, its former boss.

Man Group, the London-listed hedge fund manager, also faced an investor pay revolt last week, with 28 per cent of votes cast at its annual meeting opposing its remuneration report for 2016.

Relief spreads after German order to limit punters' losses

Harry Wilson

The London-listed CMC Markets, IG Group and Plus 500 have welcomed an order by the German market regulator that spread-betting companies must ensure that their customers cannot lose more money than is in their trading accounts as a condition of ending its investigation into the industry.

The British businesses pledged to put in place procedures ensuring that customers living in Germany will have their account balances protected. The regulator, the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority, known as BaFin, had opened a consultation on spread-betting, raising fears of more serious sanctions. Its announcement yesterday was met with relief that there would not be more draconian rule changes.

Plus 500 said that it already provided balance protection across its products, meaning that customers cannot owe it money if their trades lost all the funds in their accounts.

"Plus 500 will continue to implement necessary adjustments to its business model when required by regulatory changes," it said.

CMC Markets said that it was "pleased that BaFin has maintained the scope of the consultation and the speed at which any regulatory uncertainty in Germany has come to a close".

IG said that it "believes in robust and proportionate regulatory oversight of the sector and believes this move should both provide additional protection for consumers and enhance its competitive position in the country".

Shares in the spread-bettors rose initially but ended the day down.

Business

Digital advances boost numbers at News Corp

An influx of digital subscribers to *The Wall Street Journal* helped News Corp to beat analysts' expectations with its third-quarter results last night. The *Journal* added 118,000 digital subscribers in the first three months of the year, bringing its total to nearly 1.2 million.

News Corp's third-quarter loss narrowed to \$5 million from \$149 million a year ago on revenue that rose to \$1.98 billion from \$1.89 billion. The loss was less than had been forecast and revenue was higher, lifting shares in the company by 2.2 per cent to \$13.11 in after-hours trading in New York.

Robert Thomson, chief executive of News Corp, which is the ultimate owner of *The Times*, said: "We saw particular progress in our quest to be more digital and global."

The Wall Street Journal is part of News Corp's news and information services division, which also includes *The Times* and *The Sun* newspapers. The division reported third-quarter revenue of \$1.26 billion, up from \$1.23 billion a year ago. Digital subscriptions at *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* rose slightly to 185,000 at the end of March from 184,000 at the end of last year. *The Sun* reached 80 million users a month at the end of March, up from 36 million a year ago.



Toasting success Alison Brittain, of Whitbread, one of only seven women FTSE 100 chief executives, was named Veuve Clicquot businesswoman of the year

Nothing to fear here as stability calms Wall Street

Wall Street's "fear index" fell further yesterday after hitting a 23-year low on Monday. The Vix index, which measures the short-term volatility of the S&P 500 index, dropped to 9.56 in the morning but recovered later.

The fall came as the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq retreated from new intraday highs, although Apple, the world's largest publicly traded company, rose to a record \$153.96 a share.

Analysts said that the promise of greater political stability in Europe after the election at the weekend of Emmanuel Macron in France had

reduced volatility. Some saw the fall in the Vix index as a precursor to a sell-off in US stock markets.

Chris Beauchamp, analyst at IG Group, said: "We have a market with no news and no volatility. Everyone is looking for the next sell-off, or at least the reason for the next sell-off, so we will probably go without one throughout the summer."

On Monday the Vix index closed down 7.6 per cent at 9.77, its lowest since December 1993, when it was 9.31. The Chicago Board Options Exchange launched the index in 1990.

Homebuyers splash cash

The number of house buyers paying cash reached a post-recession high in 2016, according to the Intermediary Mortgage Lenders Association. The situation is being fuelled by older people who benefited from the boom in home ownership in the second half of the last century and strong house price growth. The association's figures show that cash provided 42 per cent of funds for house purchases last year, up from 37.7 per cent in 2013. The total value of residential house purchases in the UK reached £261 billion last year, with £152 billion provided by mortgage finance and £109 billion made up of cash funds.

Eon feels the Brexit chill

Eon said that profits in the energy supplier's British retail business had plunged by more than 40 per cent in the first quarter because of higher power prices and the fall in the pound after the EU referendum. The German-owned company said that UK earnings before interest and tax had fallen from €280 million to €161 million. Eon raised prices by 8.8 per cent last month and said that it was making efficiency savings, but it expected the market to remain "challenging". Marc Spieker, chief financial officer, said that Tory plans for a price cap could "really ruin things and not end up benefiting consumers".

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Banks hit hard to fund increase in Australia's spending

Australia's biggest banks and all but the poorest workers will bear the brunt of a \$21 billion tax rise over the next four years to fund a budget that increases spending on healthcare, infrastructure and schools (Bernard Lagan writes).

Australia's budget, the first since the return of Malcolm Turnbull as prime minister last year, was unveiled by Scott Morrison, treasurer, on Tuesday night. It forecasts a modest return to a budget surplus, of \$7.4 billion (£4.2 billion), by 2020-21.

In a financial programme that the government hopes will revive its popularity with



The government forecasts a modest return to a budget surplus, of \$7.4 billion (£4.2 billion), by 2020-21

voters, Australia's most prominent banks have been hit with an unexpectedly large \$6.2 billion of additional taxes.

A bank levy will raise the sum over the next four years.

The move on banks also includes new laws that impose \$200 million fines for a single banker hiding misconduct from regulators and gives watchdogs the power to set the long-term

remuneration of senior bankers.

The penalties come after a vocal campaign conducted by the opposition Labor Party for a royal commission into banking practices, which

appears to have wide public support but has been resisted by the Turnbull administration.

The government does appear, however, to have reacted to widespread public concern over booming house prices by imposing a 50 per cent cap on foreign ownership in new property developments.

The budget also raises the existing national healthcare levy on all but the lowest-paid workers from 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent, which will bring in an extra \$8.2 billion.

The biggest losers from the budget are Australia's four big banks Westpac, ANZ, Commonwealth Bank and National Australia Bank, as well as the Macquarie Group. Banks with liabilities of more than \$100 billion will be taxed at a rate of 0.06 per cent of those liabilities each year from July 1.

Bank executives will be subject to a new

regime on accountability, in which the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority will have the power to dismiss or disqualify them, claw back their bonuses and enforce penalties on banks of up to \$200 million.

Mr Morrison told the banks not to pass the new levy on to customers, saying they had no right to do so as it did not apply to mortgages or deposit accounts.

Marie Diron, associate managing director at Moody's, said that it was a "budget of continuity".

The budget forecasts a deficit of \$28.7 billion in 2017-18, moving to a \$7.4 billion surplus in 2020-21.

It predicts a bounce-back in wages growth, suggesting that it will climb to 3 per cent in 2017-18 and will rise each year after that.



Fund paints damning picture of Akzo board in legal action

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The American hedge fund agitating for the takeover of Akzo Nobel, the Dutch group that owns Dulux paints, has reported the company's chairman to corporate governance authorities in the Netherlands.

In its latest tirade against the Akzo Nobel board, which three times in the past ten weeks has rebuffed indicative takeover offers from its US arch-rival PPG, Elliott Advisors described the board as arrogant and its response to entreaties from PPG and shareholders as disturbing and inexplicable.

Elliott's decision to file a legal action with the Dutch Enterprise Chamber comes after Akzo Nobel's reporting of Elliott to the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets over allegations that Elliott had been sharing sensitive information with PPG.

Elliott is petitioning the enterprise chamber over its campaign to remove Antony Burgmans, the leading Dutch businessman who used to head Unilever, as Akzo Nobel's chairman. It believes that it has a case against Mr

Burgmans because Akzo Nobel has refused to sanction Elliott's request for an extraordinary general meeting of the company, at which it wants to oust Mr Burgmans.

The hedge fund has told Dutch legal authorities that Mr Burgmans has "failed to discharge his fiduciary and corporate governance duties". It added: "Akzo Nobel ... continues to demonstrate a disturbing and inexplicable tendency to act in their own, self-entrenching interests and against the interests of shareholders and other stakeholders."

Elliott has been riled by Akzo Nobel's dismissal of the EGM request as "irresponsible, disproportionate [and] damaging".

The latest round of hostilities comes after Akzo Nobel's formal refusal to countenance a third takeover approach by PPG. Its latest offer values Akzo Nobel at nearly €27 billion.

Akzo Nobel has argued that it believes the proceeds from its plans to demerge its paints business from its specialty chemicals business, plus future dividend streams, create a higher



The Dulux paints owner has rejected three takeover offers from its rival

valuation than PPG's offer. It also has said that PPG's plans to merge were undeliverable owing to the level of competition remedies needed and the length of time it would take to agree to

divestments around the world. Elliott described such beliefs as "an arrogant dismissal of recognised principles of proper corporate governance ... [and] unconvincing and unsupported by any available evidence".

Akzo Nobel formally rebuffed the PPG offer after a 90-minute meeting in Rotterdam last weekend, at which Ton Büchner, its chief executive, and Michael McGarry, his counterpart at PPG, met face-to-face for the first time since the takeover impasse developed at the end of March.

Elliott accused Akzo Nobel of holding the meeting only so that it could tell its shareholders that it had engaged with PPG. Several leading Akzo shareholders have been critical of Mr Büchner and Mr Burgmans for refusing to meet PPG executives.

Akzo Nobel said last night that it had "conducted a thorough and extensive process in its evaluation of each proposal from PPG."

"We do not see how the dismissal of the supervisory board chairman is beneficial to the company, its shareholders or stakeholders in any way."

Weak euro lifts German economy to new heights

David Charter Berlin

German exports and imports hit record highs in March, fuelling claims that Europe's economic powerhouse is benefiting from a relatively weak euro.

The country's huge trade surplus narrowed slightly thanks to the rise in imports, but was still at €19.6 billion for the month. Germany's federal statistical office said goods exports rose 0.4 per cent from February to €105.4 billion, while imports increased by 2.4 per cent to €85.8 billion in figures adjusted for seasonal and calendar variations.

British figures for March have yet to be released, but in February combined goods and services exports were €48.5 billion, about half the German tally of goods alone.

"Given that only one third of all German exports go to other eurozone countries, it is obvious who has been one of the main beneficiaries of the weak euro," Carsten Brzeski, economist at ING, said. "In this regard, even the narrowing of Germany's trade surplus will do little to undermine the permanent international criticism of Germany's current account surplus."

The adjusted monthly trade surplus was down from €21 billion in February. "These are the highest monthly figures ever reported for both exports and imports," the statistics office said.

German exports to EU member states rose by 8.7 per cent to €68 billion compared with March last year, while imports were up by 13.5 per cent to €61.1 billion. The greatest growth came from outside the EU, with exports to non-EU countries rising by 13.9 per cent to €50.3 billion and imports increasing by 15.7 per cent to €19.8 billion.

In a separate report, the statistical office said that German factory production had dropped by 0.4 per cent in March from the previous month. Job vacancies also hit an all-time high in the first three months of this year, climbing above one million.

Volkswagen bosses face being given a bumpy ride

David Charter Berlin

Volkswagen shareholders have been urged by private investor advisers to reject a call at today's annual meeting to clear the carmaker's management and supervisory boards of responsibility for actions taken last year.

Hermes Equity Ownership Services, which advises 20 VW institutional investors, also called on the company to publish findings of its investigation into the diesel emissions scandal, which erupted in September 2015.

It criticised the carmaker's efforts to improve corporate culture and de-

manded an independent review of its supervisory board. Hermes EOS has also called for the rejection of the group's remuneration policy at the meeting in Hanover, Germany.

Volkswagen has long been the subject of minority shareholder criticism for its failure to resolve corporate governance and transparency issues. "We think that Volkswagen has failed to systematically address those problems to date," Hermes, which represents large institutional investors, said.

Last month Ferdinand Piëch, the company patriarch and former Volkswagen chairman, 80, divested much of

his 14.7 per cent stake in Porsche Automobil Holding, the family company that holds 52.2 per cent of voting shares in Volkswagen. The shares were bought by his younger brother, Hans Michel, so the family will retain its boardroom dominance, though it has pledged to keep out of day-to-day management.

The grip of the Porsche and Piëch families, both descended from Ferdinand Porsche, the founder, has been blamed for a culture of secrecy and resistance to change as Volkswagen and its 12 brands from Audi to Skoda became the world's largest car seller.

VW has revealed little about its

investigation into its diesel emissions fraud, after admitting that it fitted about 11 million cars worldwide with secret software to cheat exhaust tests. It has agreed to pay up to \$25 billion in the United States to settle claims from owners, regulators, states and dealers over the diesel scandal.

VW hired Jones Day, an Ohio-based global law firm, to conduct an investigation and report to the US justice department, which has sued the carmaker. At last year's annual meeting several shareholders raised doubts about the independence of those investigations.

Business Unit Trusts

The Times unit trust information service

Full funds service at thetimes.co.uk/investment

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For Abbey National see Santander				
For Allchurches see Ecclesiastical ALLIANCE GLOBAL INVESTORS				
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573				
Gilt Yield A %@	177.82	...	-1.18	...
Strategic Bond Fund %@	150.82	...	-0.29	0.87
UK Corp Bond C %@	104.79	...	-0.78	...
UK Eqty C %@	6317.26	...	-14.91	...
UK Eqty Inc A %@	289.62	...	+1.63	...
UK Gwth A %@	5559.24	...	+20.45	1.47
UK Index A Inc %@	1450.74	...	+8.56	...
UK Mid Cap A %@	4820.65	...	+39.83	0.33

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD				
0800 092 2051				
Authorised Inv Funds				
Capital R Acc %@	1489.48	1572.72	+13.24	...
Euro Opps R Acc %@	99.38	104.86	+0.25	...
Euro Opps R Inc %@	94.69	99.91	+0.24	...
European Growth R Acc %@	8326.76	344.74	+0.81	0.93
Global Energy R Acc %@	29.99	31.61	+0.25	0.40
Global Growth R Acc %@	236.98	250.09	+0.57	0.91
Global Income R Acc %@	122.16	128.95	+0.60	2.92
Global Income R Inc %@	94.11	99.34	+0.46	2.99
Global Select R Acc %@	94.42	99.57	+0.27	...
High Income R Inc %@	79.94	84.98	+0.03	5.83
Income R Acc %@	405.84	430.14	+0.96	...
Income R Inc %@	232.21	236.58	+0.53	...
Monthly Dist R Inc %@	72.43	76.71	+0.17	...
Strategic Assets R Acc %@	83.95	88.78	+0.31	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc %@	93.17	98.79	+0.02	3.64
Strategic Bond R Q Acc %@	57.25	60.71	+0.01	3.72
Strategic Bond R Q Acc %@	93.00	98.61	+0.02	3.68
Strategic Bond R Q Inc %@	57.19	60.64	+0.01	3.74
UK Growth R Acc %@	521.02	550.75	+3.72	...
UK Smaller Cos R Acc %@	1519.13	1625.96	+4.92	1.02
UK Special Sits R Acc %@	592.89	629.02	+0.92	1.49

AXA FRAMINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511				
Equity Inc %@				
Gilt Acc %@	201.30	211.80	+0.10	...
Gilt Inc %@	74.35	78.24	-0.39	...
Health Acc %@	1856.00	...	-9.00	...
Jap Smr Co Acc %@	62.56	66.09	-0.19	...
Managed Inc %@	144.20	...	...	...
Monthly Inc Inc %@	259.60	...	+1.30	...
UK Growth Inc %@	211.50	...	+0.50	1.46
UK Select Opps Inc %@	1883.00	...	+7.00	1.13
UK Sm Cos Inc %@	260.20	...	+1.00	0.25

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808				
AXA Trusts				
Gen Acc %@	2101.00	...	+6.00	...
Gen Inc %@	1079.00	...	-2.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies				
Euro Acc A %@	242.40	...	+0.60	...
Extra Inc B %@	89.88	...	-0.06	2.17
Global Gwth Acc R %@	197.50	...	+0.50	...
Japan Acc A %@	146.90	...	-1.60	...
Pac Gwth Acc A %@	412.80	...	+1.10	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
08457 46 46 46				
European Gwth %@	138.40	140.50	+0.30	...
Sus Leaders %@	538.80	...	+3.10	...
UK Growth %@	552.10	560.50	+3.10	...
UK Income %@	232.50	236.00	+0.70	4.38

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0870 606 6402				
Beacon Inv %@	84.88	...	+0.35	...

Dealing: 020 7426 6232				
Winchester %@	2630.67	...	+11.24	1.24

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD				
0800 358 3010				
Amity European A %@	267.20	...	+1.00	1.47
Amity International A %@	261.30	...	+0.00	1.26
Amity Sterling Bond A %@	106.90	...	-0.10	4.89
Amity UK A Inc %@	236.70	...	+1.00	...
Higher Income A %@	136.40	...	+0.40	4.28
UK Equity Growth A %@	270.10	...	+0.90	...

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICs)				
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083				
Share Class 1 - Retail				
Corporate Bd %@	59.09	...	-0.21	...
Emerging Mkts %@	117.00	...	-0.10	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 %@	965.20	...	+2.30	...
Extra Inc Bond %@	49.00	...	-0.03	...
FTSE All-Shr Track %@	412.00	...	+2.30	...
Global Gwth SC1 %@	185.70	...	+0.50	...
High Inc Trst %@	14.59	15.34	+0.03	...
Multi Man Bond %@	48.93	...	+0.01	3.92
Multi Man Distr %@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr %@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer %@	474.10	...	+1.70	...
Pacific Amer %@	408.80	...	+1.90	0.56
Strategic Bd %@	198.70	...	+0.70	0.72
UK Equity %@	3326.00	...	+18.00	...
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 %@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist %@	234.70	...	...	3.34
UK Smaller Cos %@	882.80	...	+6.60	0.26

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL				
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Digs 0800 414181				
Amer Spec Sits %@	1538.00	...	+4.00	0.01
European %@	3604.00	...	-1.00	...
Euro Opps %@	493.60	...	+3.20	0.28
European %@	2131.00	...	+5.00	...
Extra Income %@	27.86	...	-0.05	...
Glob Spec Sits %@	3559.00	...	+8.00	...
Global Focus %@	1798.00	...	+6.00	...
International %@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan %@	340.10	...	-2.40	...
Moneybldr Bal %@	53.02	...	+0.11	3.78
Moneybldr Gwth %@	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Moneybldr Gwth %@	80.36	...	+0.39	...
Moneybldr Inc %@	37.19	...	-0.15	...
Moneybldr UK Ind %@	102.70	...	+0.63	...
Special Sits %@	3829.00	...	+15.00	0.93
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD				
01296 386 386				
Authorised Inv Funds				
Share Class - C				
Corporate Bond %@	35.09	...	-0.12	...
Ethical %@	76.32	...	+0.07	...
European %@	84.50	...	+0.30	1.95
Far Eastern %@	93.83	...	+0.01	2.08
Fund of Inv Tst %@	106.00	...	+0.30	0.38
Intl Gwth %@	81.34	...	+0.26	1.50
Japanese %@	57.44	...	-0.65	1.43
North Amer %@	82.08	...	+0.12	1.07
Smaller Cos %@	102.00	...	-0.70	1.16
Special Sits %@	47.88	...	+0.32	1.66
UK Equity Inc %@	83.71	...	+0.93	...
UK FTSE 100 IT %@	57.22	...	...	...
UK FTSE All-5 IT %@	65.44	...	+0.37	...
UK Growth %@	75.92	...	+0.47	...

HENDERSON GLOBAL INVESTORS				
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646				
All Sits Credit A Inc %@	134.30	...	-0.60	...
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc %@	103.55	108.78	+0.75	6.54
Cautious Man Fd A Acc %@	0263.20	...	+0.50	...
Cautious Man Fd A Inc %@	155.10	...	+0.30	3.12
China Opp Fund A Acc %@	01163.00	...	+17.00	...
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc %@	0197.40	...	-0.50	...
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc %@	0230.00	...	+0.30	...
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc %@	01634.00	...	+5.00	...
Erpn Spt Sits A Acc GBP %@	094.66	...	-0.29	...
Erpn Spt Sits Fd A Acc EUR %@	04.84	...	-0.07	...
Erpn Spt Sits Fd A Inc %@	22.28	23.24	-0.01	...
Global Equity Income A Inc %@	060.99	...	+0.22	3.17
Global Growth Fund Acc %@	0287.62	2949.42	+12.65	...
Global Tech A Acc %@	1448.00	...	+11.00	...
M-Man Abs Ret Fd A Acc %@	0141.50	...	+0.10	0.07
M-Man Active Fd A Acc %@	0213.60	...	+0.80	0.40
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc %@	0171.60	...	+0.40	...
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Inc %@	153.30	...	+0.30	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc %@	0218.13	227.54	-0.88	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc %@	65.54	68.36	-0.27	...
Strategic Bond A Acc %@	126.50	...	-0.10	4.55
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc %@	157.10	...	+0.70	1.13
UK Alpha Fund A Acc %@	140.60	...	+0.70	1.13
UK Index Fund A Acc %@	599.90	...	+3.40	...
UK Irish Sm Co Fd A Acc %@	0616.30	...	+2.90	...
UK Property A Acc %@	212.06	223.21	-0.03	2.95
UK Property A Inc %@	98.53	103.70	-0.01	3.01
UK Tracker Fund A Acc %@	0269.20	...	+1.60	...
US Growth Fund A Acc %@	0592.90	...	-0.20	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD				
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6				
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Amer Ind Acc %@	473.20	...	+1.40	1.16
Amer Ind Inc %@	412.10	...	+1.10	1.18
Euro Ind Acc %@	837.30	...	+0.30	...
Euro Ind Inc %@	617.10	...	+2.20	...
FTSE 100 Ind Acc %@	216.60	...	+1.20	...
FTSE 100 Ind Inc %@	121.30	...	+0.70	...
FTSE 250 Ind Acc %@	259.10	...	+1.20	2.25
FTSE 250 Ind Inc %@	182.80	...	+0.90	2.32
FTSE All-5 Acc %@	557.10	...	+3.20	...
FTSE All-5 Inc %@	346.90	...	+1.90	...
Jap Ind Acc %@	110.80	...	-1.20	...
Jap Ind Inc %@	96.02	...	-1.04	...
Pac Ind Acc %@	354.90	...	-0.70	...
Pac Ind Inc %@	258.90	...	-0.50	2.03

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class				
Balanced Acc %@	209.70	...	+0.40	1.12
Balanced Inc %@	141.90	...	+0.30	1.13
Corp Bd Acc %@	276.00	...	-1.10	...
Corp Bd Inc %@	124.20	...	-0.60	2.89
Gilt & Fd Int Acc %@	460.90	...	-3.20	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc %@	73.28	...	-0.51	...
Income Acc %@	653.40	...	+3.00	...
Income Inc %@	339.70	...	+1.60	...
Monthly Inc Acc %@	297.10	...	+0.60	3.64
Monthly Inc Inc %@	151.40	...	+0.30	3.71
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc %@	0134.70	...	+0.60	3.26
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc %@	074.25	...	+0.35	3.35
UK Gth & Inc Acc %@	134.70	...	+0.60	3.26
UK Gth & Inc Inc %@	74.25	...	+0.35	3.35

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Amer Gth Acc %@	152.50	...	+1.10	0.12
Amer Gth Inc %@	152.40	...	+1.10	0.12
Asian Gth Acc %@	139.30	...	+1.00	...
Asian Gth Inc %@	124.80	...	+0.90	...
Chinese Eq Acc %@	459.90	...	+7.90	0.63
Chinese Eq Inc %@	391.40	...	+6.70	...
Euro Gth Acc %@	826.10	...	+2.10	...
Euro Gth Inc %@	718.70	...	+1.80	...
UK Smr Co Acc %@	161.80	...	+1.50	1.68
UK Smr Co Inc %@	136.70	...	-0.30	...

Pension Unit Trusts				
HSBC FSAVC Unit Trust				
British	298.90	316.90	-3.60	...
Gilt Fd Int	437.20	463.40	-14.50	...
Emerging Mkts %@	252.50	267.70	-0.90	...
Income	159.60	169.20	-1.30	...
Jap Gth %@	34.78	36.87	-0.22	...

GOING FOR GROWTH Brussels has poured billions into small companies in the UK, but Brexit promises to cut off access to the cash, **James Hurley** writes

Fears grow for business funding after EU turns off tap

Business support for small companies could disappear into a “black hole” unless the next government steps in to replace billions of pounds’ worth of European Union funding that supports smaller employers, a report has warned.

EU funding schemes for business support worth £3.6 billion are due to end in 2020 and the Federation of Small Businesses has said that there is no regional development spending planned by Whitehall beyond 2021.

Mike Cherry, the FSB’s national chairman, said: “This is a particularly pressing issue for the many small firms with growth ambitions and those in less economically developed regions.”

Small businesses in Yorkshire, the northeast and northwest were most likely to submit applications for EU-funded schemes, a survey of 1,659 FSB members found. Of those that had applied, the majority (68 per cent) reported



Matt Hocking’s design studio, based in Cornwall, benefited from tailored business advice and financial support provided by the EU

that EU funding had had a positive impact on their company, while 64 per cent said it had benefited their region.

Companies with ambitions to grow by more than 20 per cent were most likely to apply. However, the FSB said that even those businesses that did not apply profited from the economic growth the funding supported.

Cornwall is at particular risk if the government does not replace the programmes, the employers’

group warned. The county is the only region in England classed as “less developed” by the EU and has benefited from hundreds of millions of euros of support for infrastructure, universities and broadband. The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership has been allocated €590 million as part of the EU funding round that ends in 2020, more than any local enterprise partnership outside of London. These are the

partnerships between businesses and local authorities that are charged with improving England’s regional economies.

The FSB said the government should create a new growth fund, combining a replacement for EU funding with existing Whitehall support for local enterprise partnerships.

Matt Hocking, founder of Leap, a St Austell-based design studio, took part in a business support scheme financed by the

European Regional Development Fund. The “unlocking potential” initiative provided guidance for Cornish small companies eager to grow. He said: “The hard thing for any start-up is taking that next step, when you are getting busy and

Laird Hatters received finance indirectly from the British Business Bank



British Business Bank could hold key

The next government already may have a ready-made vehicle that is suitable for replacing some of the support provided to smaller companies by the European Union, the Federation of Small Businesses suggests (James Hurley writes).

It argues that the state-owned British Business Bank should do more to support small business finance once Britain leaves the EU.

The BBB was created by the coalition government and championed by Sir Vince Cable, the former business secretary. It provides wholesale finance for lenders and investors in small and medium-sized companies. It has provided finance to Funding Circle, the peer-to-peer lender, to help to provide more capital to small businesses.

The employers’ group argues that the BBB could replace the role that the European Investment Bank and European Investment Fund have played in supporting small business funding. The two organisations invested £8.1 billion in the UK last year. The European Investment Bank has supported more

than 27,700 small businesses since it first became active in the UK in 1996.

Mike Cherry, FSB national chairman, said: “European investment in finance markets has been a crucial lifeline for small firms across the UK.” He said that failure to replicate this activity could lead to sluggish productivity, fewer jobs and business closures.

The BBB was given £400 million of additional funding in last year’s autumn statement, but there has been criticism that its resources are too limited for it to make a substantial difference.

The body also wants the next government to introduce legislation that would require all finance providers to publish lending data at a regional level, making it easier to identify market gaps.

European Union passporting rights, which allow British financial firms to work across the single market, should remain for private equity and venture capital firms as part of a post-Brexit transition to protect small firms from a “cliff edge”, the FSB said.

thinking, can I afford to take someone on, will I be able to manage?” Mr Hocking, 45, said that the initiative had given him advice and financial support to take on his first members of staff.

He said: “They provided a reassuring business partner that helped us take those first steps. The support was tailored for us as a business and what the employee needed for their career pathway. Stuff like that has been invaluable.”

“Cornwall has been a huge beneficiary of EU funding, and not just small businesses. EU funding has helped us to have superfast broadband and the infrastructure you need to attract tourism and business. I’m not sure everyone [in Cornwall] realises how much we’ve benefited from European support.”

Mr Cherry said: “If the next government is serious about developing an industrial strategy that delivers prosperity across all areas of England, it must replace EU funding dedicated to small business support and access to finance after we leave the EU.”

The FSB believes that Brexit marks an “unprecedented opportunity for fundamental reform” of business support.

Mr Cherry said: “Small businesses are clear that EU-funded support is a vital lifeline. But they’re equally clear that the process for attaining that support can be a real battle. It’s not unusual to find small firms giving up halfway through an application because forms are too long or complex, or they fear grants will be clawed back at the first sign of an admin slip. Sadly, it’s often time-poor businesses most in need that struggle in the face of this bureaucracy.” He said that local enterprise partnerships must be empowered to tailor and simplify support to local requirements and ensure that all small companies are aware of the support available.

The FSB warned that failing to replace the EU’s support would “have serious implications for small business aspirations as well as efforts to improve productivity and rebalance the economy”.

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Bearing up
in tough
insurance
market

HISCOX	
Fcst premiums £2.49bn Pre-tax	profit £202m Divi yield 2.4%

Bronek Masojada, chief executive of Hiscox, says that conditions on the Lloyd's London insurance market are reminiscent of the 1990s. Those of us who remember Lime Street back then may find this hard to believe, but conditions are undeniably tough. The trouble is that there hasn't been enough trouble. The catastrophe market, in particular, has not had to deal with any significant events, barring perhaps localised difficulties such as the UK floods, for several years. Given the lack of returns elsewhere, this has tempted other sources of capital into what looks an attractive market and has forced down rates. Sensible insurers, such as Hiscox, which has a strong record for riding out tough conditions in the markets, therefore have to become more careful in the business they take on, leaving the less attractive stuff to the tyros.

Trouble ahead?



MY ADVICE Take profits
WHY Hiscox is well placed in challenging markets, but, given the price rise in the long term, investors should consider some limited sales

Hiscox says that there are double-digit declines in rates in marine, energy and American large property business. It is out of political risk entirely. Likewise its reinsurance activities and ILS, which allows institutions to take a position, are under pressure and are being shrunk in some places. Against this, the lower pound provides a strong tailwind, though this will lessen over the year. Instead, Hiscox has been investing heavily in its retail business, providing specialist lines of insurance

Gross written premiums Three months to March 31 (Growth*)	
Hiscox UK and Ireland	£125.8m (↑13.4%)
Hiscox Europe	€99m (↑12.2%)
Hiscox Special Risks	\$36.9m (↑15.3%)
Hiscox USA	\$164m (↑33.5%)
DirectAsia	£2.9m (↓46.3%)
Hiscox London market	£157.7m (↓8.6%)
Hiscox Re	\$269.3m (↓3.5%)

such as professional indemnity, cyber and corporate espionage protection in America. Retail gross written premiums in the first quarter were up by 18.6 per cent at constant currencies, or almost 30 per cent in sterling terms. Total premiums across the group were up by a more subdued 5 per cent, or 17.3 per cent in sterling terms, but this is encouraging enough given the tough environment. The other main metric, the investment return on the cash the company holds, is also attractive at 0.7 per cent, and analysts are confident of a 1.3 per cent return for this year. Hiscox has made clear that it intends to invest spare cash in the business rather than return it to investors, like some of its peers, and the yield is not that great. This has not done the shares any harm. Up 22p at £11.87, they continue to probe record highs. Some might be tempted to take some profits, then.

SPIRAX-SARCO ENGINEERING	
Fcst revenue £899m Pre-tax	profit £207m Divi yield 1.6%

It may be a long way from being a household name, but Spirax-Sarco has grown into one of our biggest specialist engineers, with a market capitalisation approaching £4 billion. The shares have not far off doubled since the start of last year and the company is one of those that are confident they can grow organically at significantly greater pace than the global economy as a whole. The annual meeting statement was reassuring enough and analysts are looking for a growth rate of 4 per cent or so in 2017, even if forward visibility of orders is limited. Spirax-Sarco provides equipment that manages flows of steam and fluids in industrial processes. These tend to be must-have products and the company stays close to its customers, selling mostly directly rather than through distributors. It strengthened its position in Europe this year by paying €186million for a German maker of controls for boilers, which brought with it a range of new products rather than the usual cost savings and synergies. The shares pose a bit of a quandary: off 35p at £51.50, they sell on almost 26 times' holdings. Some profits could be taken, but the long-term trajectory still looks good.

MY ADVICE Hold
WHY Company should continue to beat GDP growth

And finally...

Spirent Communications, which makes telecoms testing equipment, has faltered in the past and it has been suggested that it might do better as part of a larger group. Last week there was a favourable first-quarter trading update. Now Citi, the broker, has identified it as a takeover prospect, pointing to another deal in the sector between two American companies that has just completed. Numis Securities also put out a positive note this week, suggesting that the benefits of Spirent's R&D investment are coming through.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Savills' election alert

Savills has warned that the housing market will slow down in the run-up to the general election on June 8. Property sales tend to ease off before the country goes to the polls. The FTSE 250 estate agency group also said that the volume of sales in its residential business have been lower in the year to date, but that was compared with very strong results at the same time last year, when buyers tried to beat a 3 per cent stamp duty surcharge on second homes.

Blank leads court call

The former chief executive and chairman of Lloyds are set to take the stand in a case being brought by shareholders angry at its acquisition of HBOS during the financial crisis. A court date of October 2 has been set for the case, with Eric Daniels, Sir Victor Blank and three senior managers named as defendants, alongside the bank itself. Nearly 6,000 investors in Lloyds, including City institutions, are suing the bank.

In tune with top Gear

The largest British-based online retailer of musical instruments and music equipment has struck the right note with customers. Gear4music yesterday smashed its own expectations as revenues rose 58 per cent to £56.1million in the year to the end of February, as pre-tax profit soared to £2.6million from a lowly £6,000 in 2016. The number of active customers rose by 50 per cent to 340,000.

Plan for Co-op Bank

The American hedge funds that helped to rescue the Co-operative Bank four years ago have tabled a secret proposal to restructure the troubled lender's finances. The hedge funds, led by GoldenTree Asset Management and Silver Point, are understood to have offered to inject new funds to shore up the Co-op Bank's balance sheet, but with less than the £300million the bank has said it needed, according to Sky News.

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PRICES

Major indices

New York		
Dow Jones	20975.78 (-36.50)	
Nasdaq Composite	6120.59 (+17.93)	
S&P 500	2396.92 (-2.46)	
Tokyo		
Nikkei 225	19843.00 (-52.70)	
Hong Kong		
Hang Seng	24889.03 (+311.12)	
Amsterdam		
AEX Index	536.26 (+1.96)	
Sydney		
AO	5874.50 (-23.30)	
Frankfurt		
DAX	12749.12 (+54.57)	
Singapore		
Straits	3249.97 (+12.99)	
Brussels		
BEL20	4036.80 (-0.43)	
Paris		
CAC-40	5398.01 (+15.06)	
Zurich		
SMI Index	9113.83 (+74.22)	
DJ EURO Stoxx 50	3649.08 (+6.97)	
London		
FTSE 100	7342.21 (+41.35)	
FTSE 250	19816.95 (+87.29)	
FTSE 350	4085.72 (+22.14)	
FTSE Eurotop 100	3047.02 (+11.63)	
FTSE All-Shares	4031.36 (+21.79)	
FTSE Non Financials	4749.35 (+27.86)	
techMARK 100	4670.35 (+42.46)	
Bargains	n/a	
US\$	1.2933 (-0.0008)	
Euro	1.1891 (+0.0048)	
£:SDR	0.92 (+0.00)	
Exchange Index	79.70 (+0.30)	
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
CPI	102.50 Mar (2015 = 100)	
RPI	269.30 Mar (Jan 1987 = 100)	
RPIX	269.70 Mar (Jan 1987 = 100)	
Morningstar Long Commodity	527.11 (-0.97)	
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	3828.41 (+9.00)	

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 17	127.30	127.35	126.68	126.96	200852	707775
	Sep 17		125.55	125.55	125.82		2
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 17	99.665	99.670	99.660	99.665	52310	361243
	Sep 17	99.620	99.630	99.610	99.620	93667	442923
	Dec 17	99.570	99.580	99.560	99.570	58528	407286
	Mar 18	99.530	99.540	99.520	99.520	72356	346990
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 17	100.33	100.33	100.33	100.33	17586	409985
	Sep 17	100.31	100.32	100.31	100.31	56597	479118
	Dec 17	100.28	100.29	100.27	100.28	82859	368752
	Mar 18	100.23	100.24	100.23	100.24	76003	392818
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 17	100.73	100.74	100.73	100.73	1766	66506
	Sep 17	100.75	100.76	100.75	100.75	3907	48871
	Dec 17	100.74	100.76	100.74	100.74	5729	47285
	Jun 17	112.22	112.25	112.22	112.24	210	9432
2 Year Swapnote	Mar 18	100.72	100.73	100.71	100.72	5179	25105
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 18						
2 Year Swapnote	Jun 17	128.54	128.64	128.53	128.62	120	9281
5 Year Swapnote	Mar 18						
10 Year Swapnote	Jun 17		149.95	149.62	149.72		1147
Mar 18							
FTSE100	Jun 17	7259.0	7311.0	7249.0	7297.5	88927	736801
	Sep 17	7212.0	7242.5	7212.0	7233.5	3508	2568
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 17				4893.5		
	Sep 17				4889.5		

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)			
Brent (9.00pm)			
Jul	48.78-48.77	Oct	49.68-49.61
Aug	49.15-49.14	Nov	49.88-49.82
Sep	49.42-49.40	Volume:	1241482
Crude Oils (\$/barrel FOB)			
Brent Physical	47.36	-0.53	
BFOE(Aug)	49.19	-0.64	
BFOE(Jul)	48.77	-0.61	
WTI(Jul)	46.62	-0.57	
WTI(Aug)	46.27	-0.57	
Products (\$/MT)			
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)			
Premium Unltd	494.00	497.00	+2.00
Gasoil EEC	428.00	430.00	+3.50
3.5 Fuel Oil	255.50	256.00	-0.25
Naphtha	416.00	423.00	+0.00
ICE Futures			
Gas Oil			
May	433.50-433.25	Aug	438.00-437.75
Jun	434.25-434.00	Sep	440.50-440.00
Jul	435.75-435.50	Volume:	480489
RobustaCoffee			
May	2185-1982	Jan	2077-2040
Jul	2018-2016	Mar	2089-1918
Sep	2050-2029		
Nov	2070-2042	Volume:	11872
White Sugar (FOB)			
Reuters			
	Mar	437.00-435.00	
	May	439.60-438.40	
Aug	446.40-446.10	Aug	441.40-418.50
Oct	434.00-432.90	Oct	434.00-432.90
Dec	434.20-432.80	Volume:	20579



Subscriber losses make ugly reading

The box office success of *Beauty and the Beast*, the update of the 1991 animated classic that has grossed more than \$1 billion worldwide, was unable to offset continuing subscriber

losses at Disney's ESPN sports network in the first three months of the year, as the company revealed last night that revenue was below analysts' expectations (James Dean writes). Second-quarter profit climbed by 11 per cent to \$2.39 billion as revenue rose 3 per cent to \$13.34 billion, ahead of analyst expectations. The shares fell 3.1 per

cent to \$112.07 last night in New York. Operating income from cable television, including ESPN and the Disney channels, fell 3 per cent to \$1.79 billion as revenue rose 2.7 per cent to \$4.06 billion. Revenue from the theme park business rose by 9.5 per cent to \$4.3 billion, helped by the Shanghai resort that opened last June.

Results in brief

Name	Pre-tax figure Profit (+) loss (-)	Dividend
Cambria Automobiles (retailing HY)	£5.5m (£5.7m)	0.25p p Jun 16
CentralNic (technology FY)	£1.2m (£1.5m)	nil
Gear4Music (consumer FY)	£2.6m (£6,000)	nil
Treatt (industrials HY)	£5.5m (£3.2m)	1.45p p Aug 17

● Results in brief are given for all companies valued at more than £30 million. f = final p = payable

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Euromoney Institutional Investor Recovers after sharp fall	5.2%
Carillion Boosted by takeover speculation	4.9%
Rolls-Royce Continues to rally after annual meeting	4.6%
Astrazeneca City welcomes full-year figures from Indian business	2.3%
Paddy Power Betfair Bookmakers rise	1.5%
Centrica Energy sector falls after Conservative price cap pledge	-1.2%
SSE Tory election pledge hits energy stocks	-1.2%
Hastings Goldman Sachs drops £105 million of shares	-1.7%
AA Credit Suisse initiates coverage with "neutral" rating	-2.3%
Micro Focus International Investors spooked by falling revenue at HPE Software	-5.7%

Warning lights flashing for fourth emergency service

Callum Jones Market report

Britain's biggest breakdown service stalled after a leading broker warned of "speed bumps ahead". Initiating coverage of AA with a "neutral" rating, Credit Suisse sent shares in the so-called fourth emergency service down 6½p to 259p by pointing to an insurance premium tax rise and tougher regulation coming down the road. However, the analysts praised recent momentum at AA, telling clients that it "has made progress in improving retention rates and increasing efficiency and productivity across the roadside assistance division". Shares in AA, which floated in London at 250p in 2014, accelerated in its inaugural months of trading to a

Wall Street report

Things were looking fine until a North Korean official indicated that the country was going to proceed with another nuclear test, sending investors scurrying for cover and the Dow Jones industrial average down 36.50 points to 20,975.78.

TECHNOLOGY

Dialog decries snap judgment

A British-based chipmaker has sought to reassure investors that Apple is not poised to ditch its services.

Shares in Dialog Semiconductor, a Reading-based supplier that has a Frankfurt listing, fell sharply last month after analysts suggested that it could lose its contract with its biggest customer to design and make battery-saving chips. The speculation came days after Imagination Technologies, the Hertfordshire-based group, revealed that



Dialog, the chipmaker, takes about 70 per cent of revenue from Apple

the iPhone maker would pull the plug on their partnership. Jalal Bagherli, chief executive of Dialog, insisted yesterday that its relationship with Apple "remains very strong ... We have been invited for the

design of a lot of new products, more than we can choose." Apple generates about 70 per cent of revenues at Dialog and 50 per cent at Imagination. Dialog's shares closed flat at €43.04. Analysts expect a weak second quarter, with revenues projected between \$235 million and \$265 million. Numis reiterated its "buy" rating of Imagination, arguing that Apple "cannot simply walk away" from the company, which fell 1p to 95½p. Before Apple's decision it was trading at 268¼p.

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peak of 431¼p in March 2015. The company then struggled, dipping to a low of 210p in June last year. The mid-cap index defied such drags to set another high, finishing up 87.29 points, or 0.44 per cent, at 19,816.95. Carillion was on the rise, adding 10½p to 226p as speculation swirled that the construction and caretaker group was the subject of foreign takeover interest. Euromoney Institutional Investor led the way, however, gaining 54p to £10.89. A downgrade pushed Card Factory 4p lower to 321½p. The retailer barely moved on the FTSE 250 at the tail end of last year, starting November at 256p and ending December at 253p. News of a strong Christmas had sent its shares surging 27 per cent since the start of the year, but an intervention from UBS, the Swiss broker, when it cut its rating from "buy" to "neutral", suggesting there is

"limited further upside", started a slide from its rally. The FTSE 100 gained 41.35 points, or 0.57 per cent, to reach a four-week high of 7,342.21 as mining stocks rallied. Copper prices bounced back from their four-month low on Monday, so Glencore gained 6½p to 291p, BHP Billiton rose 25p to £11.50 and Fresnillo increased 25p to £14.26. Rolls-Royce topped the table, rising 39½p to 890p. Some shorters have been burnt by the engineer's recent rise, particularly after it breached 850p last week. Those expecting Rolls to issue another profit were mistaken. Another strong performer was Astrazeneca. The multinational pharmaceuticals group put on 105p to £47.10½ after Astrazeneca Pharma India, in which it has a 75 per cent stake, published full-year figures. It was a good day for the broader sector, Shire closing up 78½p at £46.63½. The Footsie was held back by

Micro Focus International, which plunged more than 12 per cent in the first few minutes of trading after it disclosed that revenue at the software division of Hewlett Packard Enterprise, which it agreed to buy for \$8.8 billion last year, had slumped by about 10 per cent in the last quarter. After initially stooping to a low of £23.11, Micro Focus recovered to £24.90, down 149p. Energy stocks were also under pressure as the Conservatives confirmed their election pledge to cap standard variable tariffs. SSE and Centrica fell 18p to £14.31 and 2½p to 200p, respectively. ITV closed flat as the broadcaster prepared to update the market on its first-quarter progress today. Its shares have lost ground as investors grew tired of takeover chatter, falling from 214½p late last month to 200¼p. Sky, meanwhile, rose half a penny to 995p after UBS told clients that it "could surprise on the upside" when reporting in July.

London Grain Futures					
LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)					
May	150.00	Jul	149.15	Nov	140.50
Jan	unq	Mar	unq	Volume:	496
London Metal Exchange					
(Official)					
Cash	3mth			15mth	
Copper Gde A (\$/tonne)					
5495.0-5496.0		5519.0-5520.0		n/a	
Lead (\$/tonne)					
2181.5-2182.0		2177.0-2179.0		1980.0-1985.0	
Zinc Spec Hi Gde (\$/tonne)					
2631.5-2632.0		2628.0-2629.0		1943.0-1948.0	
Tin (\$/tonne)					
19895.0-19900.0		19795.0-19800.0		19475.0-19525.0	
Alum Hi Gde (\$/tonne)					
1873.5-1874.0		1879.0-1880.0		2280.0-2285.0	
Nickel (\$/tonne)					
9185.0-9190.0		9225.0-9230.0		n/a	

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)				
Bullion: Open \$1227.84				
Close \$1217.46-1217.58 High \$1228.61				
Low \$1216.79				
AM \$1225.15 PM \$1220.40				
Krugerrand \$1172.00-1244.00 (£905.68-961.32)				
Platinum \$905.00 (£699.35)				
Silver \$16.14 (£12.47)				
Palladium \$804.00 (£621.30)				
European money deposits %				
Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	0.26	0.32	0.47	0.68
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %					
Base Rates Clearing Banks: 0.25 Finance House 1.0 ECB Refi 0.00 US Fed Fd 0.75-1.00					
Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.74					
Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 0.078; 3mth 0.068. Sell: 1 mth 0.05; 3 mth 0.059					
	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	0.2554	0.2815	0.3196	0.4693	0.6805
Clearer CDs	0.25-0.15	0.30-0.20	0.35-0.25	0.51-0.36	0.66-0.51
Depo CDs	0.25-0.15	0.30-0.20	0.35-0.25	0.51-0.36	0.66-0.51
Eurodollar Deps	0.92-1.02	1.03-1.23	1.05-1.18	1.50-1.70	1.66-1.79
Eurodollar CDs	0.20-0.13	0.25-0.15	0.29-0.17	0.49-0.30	0.85-0.55
Sterling spot and forward rates					
Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month	
Copenhagen	8.8078-8.8563	8.8547-8.8562	66ds	192ds	
Euro	1.1902-1.1840	1.1900-1.1898	5pr	17pr	
Montreal	1.7666-1.7778	1.7769-1.7770	7pr	21pr	
New York	1.2903-1.2958	1.2940-1.2941	10pr	34pr	
Oslo	11.161-11.239	11.238-11.242	45pr	150pr	
Stockholm	11.433-11.505	11.501-11.506	81ds	253ds	
Tokyo	146.45-147.86	147.77-147.79	4ds	16ds	
Zurich	1.2913-1.3045	1.3041-1.3043	12ds	38ds	
			Premium = pr	Discount = ds	

Dollar rates	
Australia	1.3611-1.3618
Canada	1.3732-1.3733
Denmark	6.8424-6.8438
Euro	0.9195-0.9196
Hong Kong	7.7831-7.7845
Japan	114.20-114.21
Malaysia	4.3445-4.3495
Norway	8.6849-8.6874
Singapore	1.4118-1.4119
Sweden	8.8885-8.8899
Switzerland	1.0078-1.0079
Other Sterling	
Argentina peso	20.113-20.126
Australia dollar	1.7615-1.7616
Bahrain dinar	0.4843-0.4915
Brazil real	4.1156-4.1195
Euro	1.1898-1.1900
Hong Kong dollar	10.072-10.073
India rupee	83.710-83.736
Indonesia rupiah	17282-17300
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3927-0.3951
Malaysia ringgit	5.6221-5.6285
New Zealand dollar	1.8769-1.8774
Singapore dollar	1.8266-1.8271
S Africa rand	17.606-17.619
U A E dirham	4.7515-4.7528

Exchange rates		
	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.910	1.660
Canada \$	1.930	1.680
Denmark Kr	9.450	8.290
Egypt	n/a	n/a
Euro €	1.290	1.130
Hong Kong \$	10.820	9.520
Hungary	404.670	332.930
Indonesia	19817.200	15807.300
Israel Shk	5.120	4.370
Japan Yen	157.750	136.620
New Zealand \$	2.090	1.770
Norway Kr	12.130	10.480
Poland	5.490	4.500
Russia	81.230	67.640
S Africa Rd	19.420	16.440
Sweden Kr	12.200	10.850
Switzerland Fr	1.420	1.220
Turkey Lira	5.110	4.370
USA \$	1.410	1.240
Rates for banknotes and traveller's cheques as traded by Royal Bank of Scotland plc yesterday		
MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication		

Business Equity prices

12 month	Price			
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E

Banking & finance

72	54½	1PIH	58	...	0.6	10.5
348½	245½	Aberdeen Asset	294½	-	1½	6.6 23.3
2260	1732	Admiral	2120	+ 12	3.3	27.0
30½	17	ADVFN	22½	...	...	...
258½	104½	Aldermore Gp	255	- 2½	...	10.1
...	...	Alecto Minerals	...	...	...	0.2
4½	1½	Ambrion	2½	...	...	-3.6
32½	9	Amedeo Res	21	...	...	-3.5
5	1½	Amphion Innovs	3	- ¼	...	-0.2
27	13½	Amryt Pharma	22½	+	...	-0.3
967½	778½	Aon Corp	967½	+ 192½	1.0	23.1
1717	1375	Arbutnotn Bldg	1492	- 7½	2.0	...
35	22½	Arden Partners	33	...	...	...
17	9½	Argo Group	15	...	...	18.5
375½	260	Ashmore Gp	360	+ 1	4.6	19.9
1880½	1310½	Aus New Z	1658½	- 44½	8.4	13.8
544	346½	Aviva	535½	+ 5½	4.0	35.4
67½	53½	AXA Property Tr	57½	-	...	...
532½	275½	Banco Santander	516½	- 11	3.3	14.3
239½	127½	Barclays	205½	+ ¾	1.4	15.6
456½	331½	Beazley	456½	+ 7½	2.1	14.2
3707	226	BGEF Group	3658	- 49	3.1	10.6
½	...	Blue Star Capital	½	...	...	-4.3
215	150½	BP Marsh&Ptnrs	205	- 4½	1.3	6.8
196	5½	Brazeheart Inv	15	...	...	...
334	210½	Brenwin Dolphin	335½	...	3.6	24.1
2314½	1400	Brooks Mac	2314½	52	1.5	21.0
7½	5½	Cap & Nchs Mar	6	+	...	-5.2
61	47½	Cardador	57½	...	12.7	-7.6
149	69	Cenkos Secs	116½	+ ½	12.0	50.6
330	251½	Charles Stanley	325	...	1.5	...
327½	205½	Charles Taylor	231	- 4	4.3	12.7
396½	254½	Chesnara	387½	+ 5½	4.8	40.9
10	2½	City of Lon Gp	4½	...	...	-0.1
400½	285	City Lon Inv Gp	379½	+ 10½	6.3	12.5
1½	½	Clear Leisure	½	...	...	...
1715	989½	Clos Bros	1652	- 20	3.4	8.2
290	49½	CMC Markets	124	- ¼	...	8.6
810½	439½	Commerzbank	790½	- ¼	2.1	43.5
302	208	CYBG	284½	- 1½	...	...
165½	891½	Deutsche Bank	1457½	- 8½	...	...
399½	333½	Direct Line Ins	357½	+ 1½	3.9	17.7
89	83½	Downing ONE VCT	85½	...	7.0	...
1½	½	Dragonfly Invs	½	...	...	-0.5

Investment companies

12 month	Price	Yld	Dis(-)
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	% or Pm
823½ 464½ 3I Group	821½	+ 2½	2.6
200 166½ 3i Infrastructure	195½	- 1½	3.8
123½ 102½ Abrdn Div I&G	115½	...	5.6
1291 849 Aberforth Smir	1291	+ 12	2.1
701½ 485½ Alliance	692½	+ 1	1.8
... .. Arct Cap Hldgs	20½	...	...
252 175 Atelney Trust	252	...	3.4
64½ 495 Bailie Gifford SN	633	- 1½	...
776½ 550 Bankers	775½	+ 2½	2.2
1317 1181 BH Global	1300	- 2	...
1023½ 921½ BH Global	1015½	- 7½	...
2160 187½ BH Macro	2056	- 14	...
1734½ 1530½ BH Macro	1695½	- 12½	...
1602½ 1388 BH Macro	1582½	- 3½	...
781 564 Biotech Growth	693½	- 3½	...
91½ 59½ BLK Com Inc	70½	+ 1½	5.8
333½ 213 BLK&RmEur	333½	+ 6	1.8
150 109½ BLK&Froln	146½	+ 1¼	3.4
309 238 BLK Grt Euro	309	+ 1	1.7
201½ 171 BlackRck Inc & Gwth	201½	+ ¼	3.1
456½ 308½ BLK Latin Am	429½	- 1	...
176½ 122½ BLK&Rk N Amer Inc	159½	+ 3	3.0
1204 735 BLK Smir	1203	+ 7	1.7
421½ 266½ BLK&Rk Thromorton	421½	+ ½	1.7
403 219½ BLK Wild Mnt	318	+ 2¼	4.1
63 27½ Blue Plan G&I Ust	27½	...	...
50 31½ Blue Plan Int Fn	50	...	6.0
688½ 461½ Br Empire Sec	674	+ 2½	1.7
702½ 503 Brunner	699	...	2.2
287½ 2152 Caledonia Inv	2760	+ 18	1.9
141½ 95½ Candover	133	+ 1	...
242½ 193 Carther European	194	- 1	...
197½ 171½ City Merch Hl Yld	197½	+ ½	5.0
427½ 356 City of Lon IT	427½	+ 3½	3.9
246 143 Crystal Amber Fd	246	+ 1½	2.0
371½ 299 Dunedin Entp	348½	+ 5½	5.1
760½ 620 Edinburgh IT	760½	+ 3½	3.2
560 419½ Edin Wwde	556½	+ ½	...
5110 2479 Electra Pte Eq	2721	+ 36	...
3022 218 EP Global Opt	295½	+ 1¼	1.4
1255½ 934 European Asset	1255½	+ 2½	0.2
9404½ 618½ European Investment	9044½	+ 9½	1.7
317 245 F&C Cap&Inc	316½	+ 5½	3.3
151½ 102 F&C Comm Prop	147½	+ ½	4.0
1299 947 F&C Hl Smallr	1297	+ 7	0.9
585 420½ Foreign & Cal	580½	+ 6½	1.7
355½ 236 F&C Priv Eq Ord	350½	+ 3	...
105 78½ F&C UK Hlt A	105	+ ½	4.6
105 86½ F&C UK Hlt B	105	+ ½	...
416½ 336½ F&C UK Hlt UNIT	116½	+ 3	3.4
1093½ 77 F&C UK Real Estate	102	- ¾	4.8
401 255½ Fidelity Asian Val	395½	+ ¾	1.1
200 132½ Fidelity China Sp	195½	+ 3½	0.9
213 15½ Fidelity Euro Val	212½	...	1.9
112½ 86½ Fidelity Japan Val	109½	- ¼	...
244½ 170 Fidelity Spec Val	244½	+ ½	1.5
715½ 562½ Fins Gwth & Inc	715½	+ ½	1.8
134½ 117 GCP Infrastructure	129½	+ ½	5.8
650 482 Gen Emer Mkts	641	+ 5½	...
56½ 29½ Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	34	...	...
... .. Greenoat UK	...	...	...
347½ 300 Gresham House	317½	...	...
916½ 692 Hansa Tst	898½	+ 27½	1.8
880 691 Hansa Tst A	880	+ 10	1.8
1274 875 Hervest Gbl Pt Eq	1270	+ 15	...
1337 884½ Hend Euro Foc	1337	+ 7	1.9
195½ 159½ Hend High Inc	193½	- ½	4.1
746 522 Hend Mid	746	+ ½	1.1
291½ 214½ Henderson Value	275½	+ ¾	1.3
97 654 Herald	979	+ 16	...
1620 1139 HypCapital Trust	1522	+ 26	3.0
185 159½ HICL Infra	171½	+ 1½	4.4
209½ 176½ Highbridge Multi	209½	+ 1½	...
108½ 98½ Highbridge Multi	102½	...	...
740 532 ICG Ent Tr	743½	+ 5	2.7
234 156 Incman Ev Mkts	228½	+ 1½	0.8
267½ 175 IVCO AsTr	267½	+ 2½	1.3
300½ 247 IVCO Inc	300½	+ ¾	3.4
133½ 118 IPST Bal	132	...	...
196½ 151½ IPST Gbl Eq	194	+ ¼	3.3
101½ 100 IPST Managed	101½	...	...
189 156½ IPST UK Eq	189	+ 1¼	3.3
79½ 70½ Invesco Per End Inc	78½	...	6.3

12 month	Price			
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E

215½	131½	EFFG-Hermes Hldg	208½	+ 3	...	8.7
28½	22	EH	22	+	...	...
70	50	El Oro	65	...	3.7	5.0
3	1½	Energiser Inv	2½	- ¼	...	-3.0
294	123½	EPF Special Opps	292½	...	...	...
304½	188½	Esure	263½	- 1½	3.1	18.5
133	11½	Fairpoint	13½	...	47.6	-0.9
704½	475½	FBD	704½	...	...	31.7
57½	34½	Fiske	50	...	0.5	-4.0
67	43	Frenkel Topping	63	...	1.1	39.6
31½	18½	GU Finance	18½	- ½	20.5	-1.9
870	750	Gresh Hse Strat	855	...	...	7.4
308½	210	H&K Group	281½	+ 1½	2.9	13.4
142½	85½	Hansard Global	86½	+ ½	10.2	15.1
1408	1056	Hargreaves L	1408	+ 12	1.5	37.7
312½	165	Hastings Gp	304½	- 5½	1.8	25.5
182½	140	Hellas Under	167½	...	0.9	14.1
270½	195	Henderson Gp	234	+ 5½	4.4	23.8
18	11½	Highway Capital	15½	- ½	...	-7.9
1187	915½	Hiscox	1187	+ 22	2.0	10.2
712½	423½	HSBC	664½	+ 4½	6.2	...
959½	450½	IG Group	950	- 3	5.7	11.9
90½	46½	Impac	90½	...	...	31.5
807½	510½	Intermediate Cap	807½	+ 9½	3.2	14.0
341½	157½	IPF	170½	+ 1½	7.2	6.8
162½	143½	Int'l Public Pntshp	157½	+ 1¼	4.1	9.1
619	419½	Investec	584½	+ 4½	3.5	13.5
376½	322½	Investment Co	334	+ 5½	6.2	19.6
200	120½	IP Group	140½	- ¼	...	...
...	...	IRF Euro Fin Inv	½	...	...	...
1154	840½	Jardine Lyd Th	1130	+ 2	2.7	29.8
416	298	Jarvis Securities	410	- 4	4.2	15.5
156	86	JRP Group	129	+ ¾	2.5	...
488½	328½	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	488½	+ 2½	2.7	17.1
758	518½	Leachshire Hldgs	672½	+ 3½	1.5	12.5
43½	33	Leaf Clean Energy	37½	...	...	-3.1
39½	34	Leeds Group	38½	+ 1	...	8.7
261½	165	Legal & Gen	253	+ 1½	5.5	11.9
½	½	Legendary Invs	½	...	...	...
7634½	589	Liberty Group	589	- 2½	7.1	12.6
440½	235	Liontrust	437½	+ ¾	2.7	34.7
50½	25	Livemore Invs	43½	...	3.9	...
73½	47½	Lloyds Bkg Gp	69	- ¾	3.4	28.7
65½	41½	LMS Capital	43½	- ¼	...	...
6½	2½	Lon Capital Grp	2½	...	...	-0.1

12 month	Price			
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E

3391	2289	Lond Stk Ex Gp	3386	- 5	1.1	54.1
156½	107½	Man	155½	- ½	4.9	...
9½	6½	Manx Fin	9½	...	...	8.1
1½	1½	Marechal Cap	1½	...	...	...
5806½	4845	Marsh Mcln	5716½	- 6½	1.9	20.0
851½	627½	Mattoli Woods	846	+ 2½	1.3	40.0
4½	1½	Metal Tiger	2½	...	...	...
3669	1623	Metro Bank	3423	- 11	...	...
41½	21½	Miton Group	38½	+ ½	1.7	20.2
1945½	1394½	Nat Aust Bkt	1843½	- 38½	9.3	14.0
848½	464½	NEX Group	607½	- 16	6.3	57.3
286½	180½	Numis	275	+ 5	2.3	14.9
166	122½	Oakley Cap Invs	162½	- ½	...	18.0
229	164½	Old Mutual	194	+ 2½	4.6	19.2
455	176½	Onesavings Bank	455	+ 4½	2.1	9.2
2½	1½	Origo Partners	1½	...	...	-0.3
6½	1½	Orogen	1	+ ½	...	...
4½	2½	Ortec Res	3	...	...	-2.1
2½	2½	Ottoman Fd	2½	...	...	-2.8
915	730	P2P Bill Invs	855	+ 2	5.1	21.8
99	45½	Pamure Gordon	99	...	...	12.7
486	272½	Paragon	486	+ 14½	2.4	12.2
87	60½	Park Group	82½	+ ½	2.9	15.9
1168	830	PayPoint	1026	- 4	4.1	37.3
473	305½	Paysafe Group	473	+ 10½	...	20.8
373	28½	Phaenos Thimber	373	...	0.6	13.7
893½	697½	Phoenix Cp Hldgs	761½	+ 3½	5.9	...
...	...	PLUS Markets	...	...	...	-2.0
3½	...	PLUTO PowerGen	1½	...	...	...
3½	2½	Polo Resources	4½	- ½	...	...
74½	22½	Private & Commw	22½	- 1½	...	12.3
16½	14	Pro Global Invs	14	- 1	...	11.2
3320	2164	Provident	3243	- 9	3.8	18.0
1½	1½	Proxima	½	...	...	-0.6
1768½	1105	Prudential	1750	+ 7	2.2	23.3
90%	78½	Qatar Inv Fund	79½	- 1½	3.7	35.5
14%	2½	Quadrise Fuels Int	4½	+ 1½	...	-7.6
151	93	Randall & Quilter	149½	- 1½	3.3	14.3
110	94½	Rasmala PLC	103	- 2½	...	...
2435	1590	Rathbone Brs	2382	...	2.3	30.4
...	...	Red Leopard	½	...	...	-4.7
206½	138½	Redde	175	- 1½	5.5	20.6
...	...	Robeco N/V	258½	...	...	...
...	...	Robino N/V	235½	...	...	...
269	148½	Ryl Bk Scot	263½	- 3½	...	-4.4

Equity prices **Business**

12 month	Price				
High	Low	Company	(p)	+/-	Yld% P/E
1%	1%	Share Hldgs♦	%	...	...
5323	3956	Sure	4663½	+ 78½	0.4 92.4
129½	72½	Silence Therap♦	79½	+ 4½	-6.5
36½	26½	Sindair Pharma♦	33½	- 1½	-6.7
1310	1067	Smith & Neph♦	1301	+ 10	2.0 18.3
400	305	Spire Hcare	350	+ 6½	1.0 26.3
252½	91	Summit Corp♦	177½	...	...
367½	153	Swallowfield♦	367½	+ 2½	0.7 21.1
37	11	Synairgen♦	11½	- ¼	-4.7
21½	15½	Tissue Regenix♦	15½	...	...
240	129½	Tiziana Life♦	200	- 5	...
208½	89	Tristel♦	205	+ 1	1.6 27.3
767	542½	UDG Healthcare	744	+ 4	1.3 34.7
14½	2%	Valit♦	2%	...	-0.2
171	126½	Vectura Corp	149½	+ 5½	...
49	17½	Vernalis♦	17½	- ¼	-5.5
206½	125	Verona Pharma♦	131½	- 1	-8.7

Industrials

78½	59	Accsys Tech	77½	+ 1½	...
7925½	5506½	BASF	7563½	+ 58	3.2 18.5
9735½	7131½	Bayer DM50	9730½	+ 37½	2.2 20.2
237½	82½	Biome Tech♦	181	...	-8.6
5½	3½	Byotrol♦	4½	...	...
9	6½	Camb Gbl Timber♦	9	...	...
109	49½	Cloudcall Group♦	92½	...	-4.6
65	25	Coats Corp♦	60½	- 1	16.5
3873	2819	Croda♦	3873	+ 32	1.8 26.3
2½	¾	Gronin Gr♦	2½	...	...
1487½	717½	Cropper (James)♦	1487½	+ 22½	0.6 36.5
317	180½	Elementis†	303	+ ½	2.3 25.6
780	393½	Evans (M.P.)♦	686½	- 3½	1.4 38.0
1%	¾	Hardide♦	1¼	...	...
73½	47½	Inspiration Health♦	55	- 1	-17.5
...	...	Intl Ferro Metals†	¾	...	-0.5
5177½	4105½	Jardine Math	4915½	+ 26½	2.3 9.0
3371½	2186½	Jardine Strat	3183½	- 13½	0.7 8.4
3540	2779	Johnson Math	3139	+ 50	2.3 26.0
2044	1259	Mondi♦	2023	+ 15	2.4 18.0
55½	44	Plant Impact♦	50½	+ 1½	...
133½	90	Plastics Capital♦	118	+ 1	3.5 34.7
175	115	Rohbros♦	130	+ 2½	4.2 17.8
403	231½	Scape♦	400	+ 1½	0.4 58.8
455½	355½	Smith (DS)	440½	+ 6	2.9 19.8
927½	720½	Swire Pacific	737½	+ 5½	5.1 10.9
17½	3½	Symph Environ♦	14½	- ¼	-6.8
36134½	2847½	Syngenta	36107½	+ 284½	2.5 34.8
504½	308½	Synthomer	504	+ 2	1.7 21.9
3766	2831½	Takeda Pharm	3729½	+ 9½	3.3 31.8
3½	1½	TyraTech Inc♦	1½	...	-1.8
91½	25	Velocys♦	50½	+ 1½	-6.0
2004	1392	Victrex	2004	+ 14	2.3 20.7
667½	387½	Wynnstay Group♦	617½	...	1.8 20.7
320	25½	Zotefoams†	289½	+ 8	1.9 22.1

Leisure

201	107	32 Red♦	196½	...	1.5 28.3
293½	189	888 Hldgs♦	293½	+ 4½	1.8 52.7
2020	1100	Accesso Tech♦	2020	+ 2½	...
407½	160	Best of the Best♦	390	...	0.3 28.7
¾	...	Boxhill Tech♦	¾	...	4.4
4853	3259	Carnival	4829	- 5	2.3 14.9
20½	13½	Cathay Intl	13½	- ¼	-5.1
100½	7½	Celtic♦	96½	...	...
727½	497½	Cineworld	727½	+ 18	2.4 23.9
396½	305½	Domino's Pizza	323½	+ ½	2.2 25.1
147½	7½	El Group	145½	- 2	...
1098	930	Fuller Sm A	1034	+ 21½	1.6 17.6
21½	12½	Gaming Realms♦	13½	...	-3.5
122	90½	Goals Socr Cntr♦	112½	...	1.7
903½	653	Greene King	758	+ 1	3.7 18.6
769	528½	GVC Holdings†	749	+ 11½	...
460	392½	Heavitree♦	392½	...	1.8 14.0
215	210	Heavitree A♦	210	...	3.5 7.5
90	75	Hermes Pacific♦	85	+ 5	...
4364½	2637½	Intercont Htzs♦	4234	+ 79	1.9 25.8
645	534	Jackpotjoy	568½	+ 4½	-2.7
162	106	Ladbroke's Coral†	126½	+ 1½	2.3 7.2
115½	94½	Mandarin Omtl	109½	- 1½	3.3 30.9
157½	129½	Marston's	145½	- ¼	4.8 11.5
513	405	Merlin Ents	508½	+ 2½	1.3 24.5
475	366½	Millen & Cop♦	452	+ 4½	1.7 19.5
11½	5½	Minoan Gr♦	10½	...	...
299½	217½	Mitch & Butlers	275½	+ 1½	2.7 12.8
9950	7895	PP Betfair†	8375	+ 125	1.5
144½	97	Peel Hotels♦	144½	...	1.3 22.9
849	675	PPHE Hotel Gr♦	807½	...	2.4 9.7
3½	¾	Prosper♦	¾	...	0.3
195	86½	Punch Taverns	175	...	5.9
255	186½	Rank Gr	211½	+ 2½	2.7 11.6
427½	256½	Restaurant Gr	346½	- ½	5.0
34½	18	Richoux Pub♦	20	...	51.5
71½	45	Rotalas♦	55	+ ½	3.8 33.3
20	13½	Specialist Inv Props♦	13½	- 2	-12.9
102½	54½	Sportech	100½	- ½	-6.2
462½	272½	SSP Group	462½	+ 7½	0.9 37.0
185	56	Tasty♦	58½	...	10.7
96½	54½	Thomas Cook	95½	- ½	...
1218	844½	TUI	1176	- 6	4.0 19.7
2½	¾	Webis Holdings♦	1¼	...	-9.2
1058	670	Wetherspoon JD♦	1050	+ 4	1.1 26.2
4356	3391	Whitbread	4074	- 16	2.2 18.7
333½	246½	William Hill♦	302½	+ 2	4.1 16.0
1362	1180	Young & Co - A♦	1316	- ½	1.3 21.4
1094	865	Young & Co - N/V♦	1083	- 3½	1.6 17.6

Media

9½	5½	7digital Gr♦	6½	- ¼	-1.5
322½	24½	Aerema Comms♦	28	...	7.1 9.9
138	10½	Altitude Group♦	70	...	...
69½	34½	Arcontech Gr♦	66½	...	-20.7
352½	225	Ascential	339½	+ 4½	0.4
179	148½	Bloomsbury Pub	173½	- ¾	3.6 13.6
78	69½	Catalyst Media♦	73½	+ 2	...
5½	1½	Cellcast♦	3½	- ¼	10.0
129	94	Cello Group♦	128½	+ 3	2.3
57	33½	Centaur Media	46½	+ ¾	6.4
804½	575	Daily Mail	763	+ 11½	2.8 13.5

12 month	Price				
High	Low	Company	(p)	+/-	Yld% P/E
257½	240	DCD Media♦	245	...	-1.1
15½	11½	Dods Gr♦	13½	...	-4.0
126½	88	Eblivity♦	120	- ½	0.3 23.0
1%	¾	Edenville Energy♦	¾	...	-0.7
3%	2½	Electric Word♦	3½	...	-8.9
255	156½	Entertainmnt One	244½	+ 1	0.4 47.5
1207	852½	Euromoney In Inv	1089	+ 54	2.1 44.8
215½	118½	Future	174½	+ ½	-2.9
597½	320	GlobalData♦	490	...	1.0
99	58½	Gocompare.com	94	+ 1½	-24.7
361½	145	IG Design Gr♦	340½	+ 1	0.7 21.9
43	23	Immedia Gr♦	30	...	...
13½	8%	Ind News&Med	10½	...	8.1
755½	629½	Informa♦	656	- 3½	2.8 27.8
177½	133	ITE Group	176½	+ 2½	3.6
220½	154	ITV♦	200½	...	3.2 18.0
44	27	Jaywing♦	37½	...	81.8
599½	405	Just Eat	564	+ 7½	98.9
380	283	M&S Saatchi♦	354½	- 1½	2.1
17½	10½	MBL Group♦	14½	...	...
...	...	Mediastest♦	¾	...	-6.5
1½	¾	Milestone♦	¾	...	-0.7
5%	2½	Mirada♦	2½	...	-4.5
47	34	Mission Mktg♦	43	...	4.7 8.9
356½	233½	Moneysupermarket♦	353	- 3½	2.3 30.4
1129½	820½	News Corp A	993	+ 5½	1.6
1172½	849½	News Corp B	1019½	+ 7½	1.5
455	233½	Next 15 Comms♦	431	+ 4	1.0
32½	9	Parallel Media Gr♦	27½	...	-0.1
975	573	Pearson♦	734	+ 6½	7.0 -2.5
317	180½	Photo-Me♦	176	- 1	3.0 21.7
1%	...	Primorus Inv♦	¾	...	-1.9
322½	228	Quarto	256½	- 2	4.2 7.0
...	...	Reabold Resources♦	¾	...	...
1%	¾	REACT Gr♦	¾	...	...
1607	1192	RELX PLC♦	1607	+ 20	2.0 28.8
4302	3173	Rightmove†	4244	+ 34	1.0 31.1
1006	750½	Sky	995	+ 10	3.3 27.6
60	17½	SpaceandPeople♦	23½	...	9.3 7.1
22½	1¾	Stratmin Global Res♦	1¼	...	-0.4
427	304	STV Group†	379½	+ ¼	2.9 11.8
1025	343½	System1 Group♦	1015	- 10	0.4 40.6
296½	241½	Tarsus Gr	288	- 1	2.9 41.7
70½	53	Totally♦	58½	...	-6.9
125½	73½	Trinity Mirror	118½	+ 2½	4.4 1.7
2506½	1821½	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2189½	- 3	1.2 16.4
2458½	1863½	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2159	- 5½	1.2 16.1
5377½	580½	UBM♦	732	+ 14	3.2 36.4
...	...	Vela Tech♦	2½	...	-2.7
4%	2½	Vitesse Media♦	2½	...	...
280½	231½	Wilmington	250½	+ 1½	3.1
1921	1476	WPP	1701	+ 20	2.8 15.7
287½	162	YouGov♦	285	...	0.4 83.8
1%	¾	Zinc Media♦	1	...	0.3
394	240	ZPG	367	- 5	1.0 41.7

Natural resources

599	305½	Acadia Mining†	391½	+ 1½	0.9 11.5
27	10½	AFC Energy♦	12½	+ ½	...
¾	¾	Alba Mineral Res♦	¾	...	-6.1
...	...	Alexander Mining♦	...	...	-0.4
1	¾	Altona Energy♦	¾	...	...
116½	71½	Alumina	98½	+ 2½	6.8 18.5
6190	406½	Amec Foster	548	+ 6	3.9 -3.9
32	20	Amerisur Res♦	24½	- 1¼	...
7½	¾	Aminex	4	...	...
15½	2½	Amur Mins Corp♦	6	...	-6.2
...	...	Andalas Energy♦	...	...	-0.1
64	14½	Andes Energia♦	58	- 2½	...
27108½	1752½	Anglo Amer Plat	1752½	+ 13½	...
1409½	575	Ang Am	1020½	+ 11	10.2
33½	8½	Anglo Asian Mng♦	17½	- ¼	-7.3
883½	394½	Antofagasta†	761	+ 7½	0.3 77.7
1½	¾	Arian Silver♦	¾	...	-0.4
2½	1¼	Ariana Res♦	1½	...	-8.2
4%	1%	Armadae Cap♦	1%	...	-1.4
2½	¾	Asa Resource♦	1½	...	...
5½	1½	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	4½	...	-6.3
164½	77½	Atlatlaya Mine♦	131	- 2½	-33.6
123	42½	Avocet♦	48½	- ¾	-4.3
¾	¾	Baron Oil♦	¾	...	-0.3
¾	¾	Bellzone♦	¾	...	-0.3
15½	3½	Beowulf Mining♦	10½	+ 1½	...
3%	1	Bezzant Res♦	1%	...	-0.1
1480½	789½	BHP Billiton	1150	+ 25	5.0
8%	3%	BMR Group♦	5%	...	-7.5
5	1½	Borber & Sthn Pet♦	2½	- ¼	-7.2
17½	7½	Bougainville	15½	+ ½	...
36½	19½	BowlLeven♦	30½	- 1½	-1.0
519½	353	BP	455½	+ 1¼	6.7
¾	¾	Cadence Min♦	¾	...	-9.6
11	6½	Cadogan Petrol	9½	...	-4.4
243	171½	Caim Energy	192½	+ 1	...
143	63½	Caledonia Mining♦	99	- 3½	4.1 7.6
12	8½	Caspian Sunrise♦	9½	...	-7.9
190½	95½	Centamin	153	- ¾	9.1 11.8
254½	138	Cent Asia Metals♦	233½	+ 3½	6.5 12.4
2%	¾	Central Rand Gold♦	¾	...	-0.1
22½	5%	Charat Gold♦	20½	+ ½	...
18½	5½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	13½	- ¼	-5.5
33½	23	China Nonferrous Gold Ltd♦	23½	+ 1	...
¾	¾	Clontarf Energy♦	¾	...	-8.3
5%	2%	Coal of Africa♦	3	...	-3.3
88½	46	Condor Gld♦	62	+ 1½	-9.6
2½	1½	Connemara Mining♦	1½	...	-5.9
7½	1%	Diamondcorp♦	2	...	-6.8
7201	283	DRD GOLD	28½	- ¼	0.3 32.0
4%	¾	ECR Minerals♦	1½	...	-0.9
9	1%	Empyrean Energy♦▼	3%	...	-1.8
55	22½	EnQuest	37½	+ ¼	2.1
1	¾	Eurasia Mining♦	¾	...	-4.2
8%	3%	Europa Oil&Gas♦	8½	+ ½	...
273	109	Evrz	199½	- 1½	...
174½	62	Exilion Energy	143	- 2	7.0

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Butler service



Actor who brought zany comedy to James Bond
Clifton James
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Register

Obituaries

Heinz Kessler

Fanatical communist who led the East German military and was convicted for his part in the shoot-to-kill policy at the Berlin Wall

As a young army commander, Heinz Kessler strode out in the early morning mist in Berlin along the line of an imposing concrete structure that was rapidly rising. He stopped along the way to give speeches to construction workers, urging them to greater efforts, "for socialism, food and security". It was August 1961 and by the end of the year the Berlin Wall was completed.

Kessler would be prosecuted as one of the perpetrators of the *Schiessbefehl* — the shoot-to-kill policy that led to the deaths of many of those who tried to escape over, under or through the wall. "It was our protection. It was a fantastic experience to be part of it," said Kessler, who remained a fanatical communist to the end of his life.

A striking figure with a baleful gaze and a much-beribboned uniform, Kessler looked every inch the henchman of a totalitarian regime as his square jaw jutted out defiantly during his 1993 trial for inciting manslaughter. As defence minister and a member of the Politburo, he was high up on the authorities' wanted list after the reunification of Germany, especially after East Germany's leader, Erich Honecker — a friend of Kessler from their days in the communist youth wing in the 1930s — was released from custody earlier in 1993 and soon after escaped to live out his days in Chile. Some historians have questioned the centrality of Kessler's

Within the military Kessler was feared rather than admired

role in enforcing the shoot-to-kill policy, but with Honecker gone, justice was demanded by the families of those killed trying to escape East Germany. Kessler and several other high-profile figures were put on trial for the "collective manslaughter" of 68 people.

As the government of the reunited Germany prepared to arrest him in May 1991, the authorities received a tip-off that Kessler was preparing to flee for Moscow disguised as a Soviet Red Army officer. A phalanx of police cars was dispatched to block the entrance to his most likely escape route, the Soviet air base in Spereburg. However, his capture ended up being a relatively meek affair. Returning home to find that the locks on his house had been changed, Kessler handed himself in.

When the judge found Kessler guilty and sentenced him to seven and a half years, Roger Boyes of *The Times* reported that there were "catcalls" from his supporters in the public gallery.

Heinz Kessler was born in 1920 in Lauban, Lower Silesia, which would later become part of Poland. He imbibed the communist creed as a child from his working-class parents, who yearned for a revolution in their homeland. As a boy Heinz joined the Red Young Pioneers, the youth organisation of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD). His childhood was blighted by the emergence of Adolf Hitler. As a teenager he trained to become a motor mechanic and risked his life by agitating against the Nazis. It was to no avail. In 1940 he was drafted to fight for the regime he hated. During



Heinz Kessler, left, and Erich Honecker, who would go on to lead East Germany, right, during a Free German Youth march in Berlin in 1949. Honecker appointed Kessler as head of the country's armed forces and the defence minister in 1985

Germany's invasion of Russia in 1941, Kessler was taken as a prisoner of war. With other German communists he pledged his allegiance to the Red Army. In Germany a Nazi tribunal sentenced him to death in his absence.

Kessler returned to Germany in 1945 expecting to hear that his parents had been killed by the Nazis. In the Soviet Occupation Zone he was overjoyed to find his mother, emaciated but alive after spending most of the war in a Nazi concentration camp. It was a rare moment of catharsis for a man who spent most of his life holding his emotions in, partly because of the terrible things he had seen in the war.

He joined the KPD in the Soviet zone and resolved "to build a fairer state on the ruins of Nazism". He rose quickly in the East German *Volksarmee* (People's Army) because he was marked out as an ardent communist who could be relied on to meet the exacting demands of the East German politburo and Moscow. Within the military he was feared rather than admired. He was still a young man when he was appointed chief of the air forces and air defence of the army in 1956. His wartime service in the Soviet Red Army had given him mastery of the Russian language and impeccable credentials with the effective overlords of East Germany. In 1985 Honecker appointed Kessler as *armee-general* of the *Volksarmee* and minister of defence of East Germany. A year later Kessler joined the politburo.

Kessler had championed the idea of a wall to prevent the estimated 2,000 people a week who were ungrateful

enough to try to escape his beloved republic, and went to Moscow to discuss the project with Nikita Khrushchev. In the early years of the wall several successful escapes were made. A group of 12 pensioners tunnelled their way to West Berlin in May 1962 and then, in early 1963, an acrobat moved hand over hand along a cable and then tight rope-walked to freedom. Security was ramped up.

Over the next 28 years an estimated 800 people were killed trying to escape over East Germany's heavily fortified

'I refuse to sacrifice my communist beliefs to the fashion of the day'

border. The estimate of those killed trying to pass the Berlin Wall range from 80 to 239. Various hazards were placed on the approach to the wall, which became known as the "death strip", including landmines and trip wires that would set off automatic machinegun fire. Savage dogs patrolled the perimeter. If the escaper was lucky enough to get as far as scaling the 3m wall, searchlights would seek them out and marksmen in the watchtowers would shoot.

Kessler's seven-and-a-half-year sentence would have been far more severe if he had used force to quell growing demonstrations in East Germany in the autumn of 1989. The defence minister had signed an order from Honecker to mobilise troops, increasing the likelihood of slaughter on the streets of

Leipzig, where most of the demonstrations were held. However, by this point the chain of command was murky. Egon Krenz, who succeeded Honecker in October 1989, is said to have cancelled the order, and there was silence from Moscow. Kessler held off. When pictures of the demonstrations in Leipzig appeared in the West, people in Berlin were emboldened to come out into the streets. He later lamented the "complacency" that led to the end of East Germany.

Kessler raged against the death of the regime and, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, he ordered troops to maintain the border. They ignored him.

He spent two years in Berlin-Hakenfelde prison and was under house arrest for a further three years. His internment was singularly unsuccessful in provoking any remorse. Not even being kicked out of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany — renamed the Party of Democratic Socialism and styled on more moderate lines — could turn his beliefs. He appealed to the European Court of Human Rights, which upheld his conviction in 2001. He maintained that there had "never, never been an order to shoot" escapers.

Little is known about his family life apart from the fact that he was married to Ruth, who died in 2013, and that he is survived by a son.

He claimed that reunited Germany was "callous and unjust. On some matters I cannot change my position. I refuse to sacrifice my communist beliefs to the fashion of the day. I am and remain a believer in democratic central-



ism and a revolutionary socialist party." He met fellow diehard communists from the *Volksarmee* for get-togethers in Berlin cafés to reminisce about the halcyon days when they were protected by the wall. They would wear their old uniforms and take part in flag ceremonies.

He continued to take holidays in Cuba and some people claimed he still had money he had siphoned off during the communist regime.

In 2009 he joined the German Communist Party, which he saw as the only one that was still suitably hardline. He stood unsuccessfully in the 2011 state elections in Berlin. That year he wrote a justification of his life, *Without the Wall, There Would Have Been War*.

"Millions of people in eastern Europe are now free from employment, free from safe streets, free from healthcare, free from social security. While the wall was standing, there was peace. Today, there's hardly a place that isn't in flames. Were you ever in East Germany? It was a wonderful country."

Heinz Kessler, politician, was born on January 26, 1920. He died on May 2, 2017, aged 97

Roy Vandermeer

Fearsome advocate who oversaw the longest planning inquiry in British history, but struggled to speak at his daughter's wedding

When Roy Vandermeer and his team of assistants arrived at the Ramada hotel, near Heathrow, on May 16, 1995, to open the public planning inquiry into the application for a fifth terminal at the airport, he already knew that it was going to be a long haul. The banner-waving protesters lined up to greet him were an unnecessary reminder that his decision was bound to infuriate either the many thousands living under the Heathrow flight path or the influential business lobby arguing that approval of the plan was vital for the economy.

Given the scale and volume of the inquiry, Vandermeer had estimated that it would take at least 18 months. In fact, it lasted nearly four years, the longest planning inquiry in British history, sitting for 524 days at a cost of more than £80 million. To make room for the hearing, the hotel had converted its indoor swimming pool, and by the time proceedings were formally closed, on March 17, 1999, Vandermeer, sitting appropriately at the deep end, had heard 433 witnesses, waded through 63,000 written submissions and undertaken nearly 100 site visits. Twelve babies were born to inquiry personnel during the four-year period, including a set of triplets.

Vandermeer's appointment as independent inspector had come as no surprise to his colleagues. His success and reputation at the Planning Bar had made him one of the busiest and wealthiest silks in his field. It was, he admitted, his opportunity to "give something back".

In the end, however, the lengthy delay and huge cost attracted criticism. Amid suggestions that the transport secretary had allowed Vandermeer's official report to "gather dust", at least until after the 2001 general election, there was no government recognition for his report, which he had submitted exactly one year before the decision to go ahead with T5 was announced in parliament by Stephen Byers.

While Frank Layfield, QC, and Graham Eyre, QC, had been knighted for their roles in the Sizewell and Stansted planning inquiries, no such honour was bestowed on Vandermeer. The general feeling at the Bar was one of outrage for this omission, but Vandermeer was merely rueful. According to his daughter Kate, he was

"only troubled by the important aspects of life".

Arnold Roy Vandermeer was born in London in 1931, the only son of William and Katherine Vandermeer. His father was a manager at a factory near Euston station, and the family lived modestly in a tenement flat on Eversholt Street. He went to Dame Alice Owen's School in Islington and read law at King's College London. To help to pay for his studies he worked part-time as a waiter at the Savoy; he couldn't afford his own suit so he arranged to share one.

After taking his degree he did National Service in the RAF, but only after breaking his collarbone when he fell from his bicycle during an impromptu race one night along the Strand. While based in Wiltshire he met his future wife, Caroline Christopher. They married in 1964 and had three children: Kate, who is a planning consultant; Jonathan, who is a solicitor; and Lucy, who was born with Down's syndrome. Her arrival led to the couple's close involvement with the Home Farm Trust (now HFT), a charity

His wife regarded him as soft — until she watched him in court

set up in the 1960s by a group of parents to provide support for those with learning difficulties.

No matter where Vandermeer was due to be appearing, his wife would get up each day to provide him with a cooked breakfast and neatly polished shoes, and, occasionally, a gin and tonic on his return. Kate recalled that, in spite of the mountains of paperwork and pink ribbon lying all over the house, her father was there for them as children. They always took holidays together — with Vandermeer's papers in tow.

He had joined Gray's Inn and been called to the Bar in 1955, joining the chambers of Eric Blain at 2 Harcourt Buildings. As a young tyro he was expected to turn his hand to anything, and he quickly showed a flair for criminal law. His capacity for hard work and his robust approach to cross-examination led to many appearances at the assize court in Maidstone and at the Quarter Sessions in Margate and Can-



Vandermeer was the inspector on the inquiry into Heathrow's Terminal 5, below



terbury. Yet Vandermeer wanted to make his mark in planning law, which was then a specialised field dominated by a small number of formidable silks. He let his clerk know that in future he would prefer to appear in any planning case, no matter how small, instead of crime, no matter how big the brief.

His change of direction in the 1970s coincided with the ambitions of the larger retailers for out-of-town devel-

opments. Local planning authorities were hostile to such applications, leading to many appeals to the secretary of state. For Vandermeer, this was fertile ground. His quick wit and facility for figures enabled him to highlight flaws in the evidence of his opponents' expert witnesses, often to devastating effect. His skilful cross-examination, often without notes, sometimes led to witnesses reaching conclusions they had once firmly resisted.

In those pre-digital days the volume of paperwork was immense, and the weight of it must have contributed to his bad back. Despite the pain, Vandermeer would often hold several case conferences in the same evening, sometimes while lying on the floor of his chambers. Although his aggressive style of cross-examination did not suit all his instructing solicitors, his reputation in "shopping cases" grew and he

soon became the preferred choice of counsel for Tesco.

Vandermeer's reputation as a fearsome advocate contrasted with his demeanour at home — although he was never known to allow friends or family to win arguments at the dinner table. He could stand and speak at inquiries and tribunals for hours, but, according to Kate, he was barely able to make a speech at her wedding, or at Lucy's birthday celebrations, before he was overcome with emotion. Indeed, Caroline regarded him as soft and sentimental — until she watched him in court for the first time.

He helped to raise money for a number of charities, notably HFT and St Albans Cathedral, and was appointed OBE in 2009 for his services to the community in Hertfordshire, where the family lived. While his wife was a gifted cook, Vandermeer was known as a connoisseur of fine wine with a greatly admired cellar. He was passionate about cricket and, with Caroline, was a member of MCC. They watched England play in the West Indies and Australia. She died of cancer in 2012.

Apart from the Planning Bar, Vandermeer made his own contribution to jurisprudence in 1978 when he was the successful advocate in *Seddon Properties Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment*, in which Mr Justice Forbes articulated five principles for the exercise of judicial review, which are still referred to today. The case had started before a different judge and was going badly for Vandermeer, but it had to be adjourned and was reheard by Forbes. This time Vandermeer opened with a new argument — and won. He often told this story to illustrate that the outcome of litigation is always uncertain, and that advocacy can still make a difference to the outcome.

Although Vandermeer's last day in court as an advocate was in 1996, his zest for battle and his appetite for work remained, and after retirement from the Bench he continued as a consultant until only months before his death. At his memorial service Gray's Inn paid him the unusual honour of chiming the chapel bell once for each year of his life.

Roy Vandermeer, QC, OBE, was born on June 26, 1931. He died of cancer on January 13, 2017, aged 85

Clifton James

Actor best known for bringing zany comedy (and profanity) to the James Bond films as a redneck Southern sheriff

The colourful character actor Clifton James strolled into *Live and Let Die*, the 1973 voodoo and derring-do James Bond adventure, as the tough, gurning, slightly rotund Louisiana Sheriff JW Pepper and exited with screen immortality.

James's unscripted reaction of incredulous profanity to seeing a speedboat flying 110ft through the air delighted the director Guy Hamilton so much that he not only kept it in the final cut, but invited James back for *The Man with the Golden Gun* a year later.

When we meet the sheriff again, he is the stereotypical American abroad, holidaying with his wife in Thailand, where he insults an elephant and is pushed into the river by the offended animal (another unscripted incident that occurred because James was not feeding it fast enough). He again gets caught up in a madcap chase sequence, this one ending with the villain Scaramanga escaping in a car that sprouts wings. Bond devotees loathed the descent into zany comedy, but while James's

luckless lawman, with his flamboyant Southern drawl and cartoon characterisation, is some miles from anything that would have graced an Ian Fleming novel, it was an unforgettable comic performance.

James was a doyen of the Actors Studio in New York and, in true method-acting style, he spent three weeks with a Southern sheriff to research his role in the Bond movies.



Clifton James excelled as JW Pepper

He had appeared with Paul Newman, a fellow method actor, in the cult 1967 classic chain-gang drama *Cool Hand Luke*, delivering a breathless, fearsome monologue on the list of behaviours that would result in inmates being punished with "a night in the box".

However, he happily accepted ample cheques to reprise his Southern sheriff in films such as *Silver Streak* and *Superman II*. One piece of authenticity was that he enjoyed a fat cigar in real life.

George Clifton James was born in 1920 in Spokane, Washington, to Grace, a teacher, and Harry James, a journalist. The family lost all their money in the Depression and moved to Gladstone, just outside Portland, Oregon.

During the war he served as a sergeant in the 163rd Infantry, posted to Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines. His decorations included the Silver Star, the Bronze Star Medal and two awards of the Purple Heart for injury during service. The first one was received after a bullet pierced his helmet and ricocheted about the inside before exiting and splitting his nose, the second

after shrapnel knocked some of his teeth out. One of his citations described how he crawled towards an enemy trench while under heavy automatic fire and killed its occupants.

After the war he acted in plays while studying at the University of Oregon. He made his New York stage debut in 1955,

He crawled to an enemy trench under heavy fire and killed its occupants

playing the first of many cops in the divorce drama *The Time of Your Life*.

He was married to a teacher, Donna Lea Beach, from 1948 to 1950. They had one child. From 1951 he was married to the writer Laurie Harper, who predeceased him in 2015, and with whom he had two sons and three daughters. He is survived by his children.

He made his name on Broadway playing the heavy-drinking Ralph in the Pulitzer prizewinning *All the Way Home* (1960), and the husband of an

Irish-American matriarch (the mighty, raspy-voiced Colleen Dewhurst) in Alice Cannon's warm-hearted family comedy *Great Day in the Morning*.

His final role was never completed: a geriatric road-trip movie, *Old Soldiers*, was abandoned last year after three of its cast died, including Mickey Rooney.

In later years James divided his life between New York, Florida and Gladstone. An outgoing man with a big personality, he was a much-loved figure in his home town, where he was rarely less than ebullient. He was fondly remembered for chewing on an unlit cigar and scaring children by removing his false teeth.

He said that he would not have chosen the sheriff as his signature role, but he had no complaints about being typecast. "He rather liked it," said his sister Bev Anslow. "He was an actor's actor, and he would act whatever part was given to him and genuinely enjoy the work."

Clifton James, actor, was born on May 29, 1920. He died of complications from diabetes on April 15, 2017, aged 96

Law Report

Awarding enhanced interest after settlement offer rejected

Court of Appeal
Published May 10, 2017
OMV Petrom SA v Glencore International AG
Before Sir Geoffrey Vos, Chancellor, Lord Justice Kitchen and Lord Justice Floyd
[2017] EWCA Civ 195
Judgment March 27, 2017

An award of enhanced interest made where a claimant's offer to settle under Part 36 of the Civil Procedure Rules had been rejected, but the claimant achieved a greater award at trial, was not entirely compensatory.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the claimant, OMV Petrom SA, challenging the rates of interest that Mr Justice Flaux ([2015] EWHC 666 (Comm)) had ordered the defendant, Glencore International AG, to pay on both the judgment sum and on the costs for the period between the expiry of the Part 36 offer on April 30, 2014, until judgment on March 13, 2015.

Mr Duncan Matthews, QC, and Mr Andrew Fulton for the claimant; **Mr Richard Southern, QC, and Mr Fionn Pilbrow** for the defendant.

The Chancellor said that the claimant claimed that the judge ought to have awarded a rate of interest enhanced by the maximum amount of 10 per cent per annum allowed under what had then been rule 36.14(3)(a) and (c) (now contained in materially the same form in rule 36.17).

It contended that the judge had wrongly concluded first that the essential function of rule 36.14(3)(a), as to interest on the award, was compensatory, so that the level of interest could not exceed what legitimately compensated the claimant for the disruption and difficulties of the litigation, and secondly that the essential function of rule 36.14(3)(c), as to interest on costs, was to reflect the cost of money.

In both cases the judge ought to

have concluded that a party who had behaved unreasonably “forfeits the opportunity of achieving a reduction in the rate of additional interest payable” as Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, held at paragraph 76 in *Petrotrade Inc v Texaco Ltd* (The Times June 14, 2000; [2002] 1 WLR 947).

Conversely, the defendant maintained that the judge had been right, because the *Petrotrade* case and *McPhilemy v Times Newspapers Ltd* (The Times July 3, 2001; [2002] 1 WLR 934), which followed it, had concluded that those Civil Procedure Rules provisions were compensatory, and those decisions had been applied consistently for over 14 years.

In considering the rate of enhanced interest to give the claimant, the judge had been wrong to accept that the award was entirely compensatory. First, the words of the rule provided for enhanced interest to be awarded “at a rate not exceeding 10 per cent above base rate”. That did not make the figure of 10 per cent a starting point. It made it the maximum possible enhancement.

Second, the objective of the rule had always been to encourage good practice. If the rule-makers had intended to say that all or any of the awards were only to be made if they represented compensation for litigation inconvenience, it would have been easy to say so. The whole thrust of the Civil Procedure Rules after Lord Justice Jackson's reforms was to use both the carrot and the stick, as could be seen from the court's rulings in *Denton v TH White Ltd* ([2014] 1 WLR 3926) and *PGF II SA v OMFS Co 1* ([2014] 1 WLR 1386).

If it were right to say that the provision for additional interest were entirely compensatory, the 10 per cent cap would only rarely be engaged (as the judge's order demonstrated) and then probably only in unusual cases where, for example, the period of the

enhanced interest award was very short.

The argument that the Jackson reforms demonstrated that the existing provision was not intended to be penal proved too much. The use of the word “penal” to describe the award of enhanced interest under rule 36.14(3) was probably unhelpful. The court undoubtedly had a discretion to include a non-compensatory element to the award but the level of interest awarded had to be proportionate to the circumstances of the case. All cases would be different.

The culture of litigation had changed even since the Woolf reforms. Parties were no longer entitled to litigate for ever simply because they could afford to do so. The rights of other court users had to be taken into account. The parties were obliged to make reasonable efforts to settle, and to respond properly to Part 36 offers made by the other side.

The regime of sanctions and rewards had been introduced to incentivise parties to behave reasonably, and if they did not, the court's powers could be expected to be used to their disadvantage. The parties were obliged to conduct litigation collaboratively and to engage constructively in a settlement process.

In those circumstances the judge's discretion had been exercised on the wrong basis. He ought to have imposed the full 10 per cent uplift for the enhanced rate of interest on the award and the costs.

Appeals on issues of the kind raised should in future be rare. The judge's discretion as to the appropriate rate of enhancement was a wide one and his Lordship would not expect the Court of Appeal often to be persuaded to interfere with it.

Lord Justice Kitchen and Lord Justice Floyd agreed.

Solicitors: **Withers LLP; Clyde & Co.**

Court Circular



Buckingham Palace
9th May, 2017
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today visited Pangbourne College, Pangbourne, Reading, to celebrate its Centenary, and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr James Puxley), the Chairman of Governors (Rear-Admiral Roger Lane-Knott) and the Headmaster (Mr Thomas Garnier).
Her Majesty and His Royal Highness attended a Centenary Service in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel.
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh afterwards met students, staff and alumni and subsequently were entertained to Luncheon in the Old Library.
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon viewed a Parade and Her Majesty presented Colours to the College before presenting two students with The Queen's Gold Medal.
The Queen later received His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, 118th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark, at Windsor Castle.
The Lord Young of Cookham (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of The President of the Federal Republic of Somalia and welcomed His Excellency on behalf of The Queen.

Clarence House
9th May, 2017
The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall this afternoon visited Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy, Magherafelt, and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Londonderry (Mr Denis Desmond).
Their Royal Highnesses afterwards visited the North West Cancer Centre, Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Londonderry, and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County Borough of Londonderry (Dr Angela Garvey).
The Prince of Wales later met board members and staff of Historic Royal Palaces at Hillsborough Castle.
The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall this evening attended a Concert at Hillsborough Castle.

Buckingham Palace
9th May, 2017
The Duke of York, Fellow, the Royal Society, this morning received Professor Sir Mark Walport (Chief Executive, United Kingdom Research and Innovation).
His Royal Highness, Patron, The Duke of York's Community Initiative, this afternoon held a Reception at St James's Palace.
Buckingham Palace
9th May, 2017
The Earl of Wessex, Royal Colonel, 2nd Battalion The Rifles, this morning held a Meeting.
His Royal Highness, Patron, Northern Ballet, this afternoon held a Lunch at Buckingham Palace.
The Earl of Wessex, President, Seafarers UK, later held a Meeting.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Northern Ballet, this evening attended a performance of *Casanova* at Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London ECL.

Buckingham Palace
9th May, 2017
The Princess Royal, President, The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conferences, today carried out the following engagements as part of the Commonwealth Study Conferences Leaders Conference Study Tour:
Her Royal Highness this morning attended a Conference Introduction Meeting at City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1.
The Princess Royal later visited FareShare Headquarters, 7 Deptford Trading Estate, Blackhorse Road, London SE8.
Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre, 82-93 Whitechapel Road, London E1.
The Princess Royal later visited Peabody Housing Association, 45 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1, and Peabody Square Estate, Blackfriars Road, London SE1.
Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, the University of Edinburgh, this evening attended a Reception at the Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

Kensington Palace
9th May, 2017
The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel Sir Malcolm Ross (Lord Prior).

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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FOR God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. John 3.17 (AV)

Births

ADAMS On 3rd May 2017 to Helen (née Rouse) and Brynmor, a daughter, Norah Jacqueline, daddy's little Villan.

CHRISTENSEN On 24th April 2017 to Joanna (née Hensman) and Matthew, a son, Hector Robert Melvill, brother to Thomas and Camilla.

DE PLUMPTON HUNTER On 6th April 2017 to Emma (née Crabtree) and Robert, a daughter, Alexandra Helena Elizabeth Ottile.

KINSEY On 6th May 2017 to Susie (née Watson) and Robin, a son, Rafe Grant Lyon.

MEYSEY-THOMPSON On 1st May 2017 to Lucy (née Asplin) and James, a daughter, Eliza Sahara Rose, sister to Kit and Xander.

POLLEN On 29th April 2017 to Candida (née Langdon) and Andrew, a son, Caspar Joseph Hungerford.

WINTER On 27th April 2017 to Kedra and Andrew, a son, Augustus Charles Henry Millais, brother to Persephone and Rafael.

Forthcoming Marriages

SIG R, D'OTTAVIO AND MISS V. FULLER
The engagement is announced between Riccardo, son of the late Giuseppe D'Ottavio and Luciana Palmaricciotti, of Canosa Sannita, Italy, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Fuller of Ripon, North Yorkshire.

MR S.R.O. LINDSAY AND MISS L.I.S. SKAILES
The engagement is announced between Sean, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Lindsay, of Woodham Walter, Essex, and Lucinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Skailes, of Grantham, Lincolnshire.

MR J.P. SHERRARD AND MISS L.J. SPROKE
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Simon Sherrard of Bossiney, Cornwall, and Lydia, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Sprake of Denton, Norfolk.

Deaths

BAILEY Leslie ("Bill") died peacefully on 1st May 2017, aged 94. Dear husband of the late Marie, father of Martin and Steven, a grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral enquiries to Levertons (020 7586 4221, info@levertons.co.uk).

BROWN Dr Alexander Campbell (Sandy) Born 29th April 1932. Died peacefully on 29th April 2017. Much loved by all. Sandy is survived by his wife Mollie and daughter Louise. Funeral at 2pm on Tuesday 16th May, at The Chapel, St Monica Trust, Cote Lane, Bristol, BS9 3UN. Donations to the Glenside Hospital Museum.

BROWN George Laird died peacefully at home on 2nd May 2017, aged 88. Much-loved husband of Cynthia, father to Jonathan and the late Cathern and grandfather of six. A gentle kindly doctor, he will be much missed by family, friends and former patients. No flowers please, donations, if wished, to Air Ambulance. Service at St Mary's Church, Barnes, on 30th May, at 3pm. Enquiries to TH Sanders & Sons, 020 8876 5255.

CROWTHER April (Prilly) (née Hall) died peacefully on 5th May 2017, aged 99 years, at home, deeply loved by family and friends. Now with Donald.

DAVIS Bryan Wallace, Bertie or Jimmy died peacefully on 18th April 2017, aged 84. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. A service will be held at Beckenham Crematorium, BR3 4TD, at 1.30pm, on 15th May. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to the British Heart Foundation.

GRESHAM Elizabeth Tyldesley on 3rd May 2017 peacefully, after a very short illness. Beloved wife of Brian, devoted mother to Janet, Ruth and John and a loving grandmother to her eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorial service on Wednesday 17th May, at 2.30pm, at St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry. No flowers please. Donations if desired, to St Oswald's Church Choir. Enquiries to David Davies & Sons, 1 Upper Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2AA, Tel: 01691 653116.

HALLETT Patricia Anne. Died peacefully after a short illness, on Friday 5th May 2017. Dearly loved wife of Peter, mother to Jo and Lizzey and adored Granny to Charlie, Lucy, Oliver, Rosie, Millie and William. No flowers please. Donations if desired, to Jersey Hospice Care, Clarkson House, Mont Cochon, St Helier, JE2 3JB. A private family funeral will take place. All enquiries to Pitcher & Le Quesne Funeral Directors, telephone 01534 733330.

HOARE Penelope Susan on 6th May 2017, aged 77. Beloved sister of Tony and Margie, greatly loved by her in-laws, her many nieces and nephews, and her very many great-nieces and nephews and her numerous friends and colleagues. She will be missed immensely. Funeral on Friday 19th May, at 11am, in St Augustine of Canterbury Church in East Hendred, Oxfordshire, OX12 8LA. There will be a memorial service in London in the Autumn.

HUGHES Rene (née Gleave) died 18th April. Rene of Wallasey, and later Bromley, Kent, loved acting, poetry, and especially her late husband Telford. She will be missed by all that knew and loved her.

LAWSON David died peacefully on 5th May 2017, aged 78, in hospital in London. Held in great affection by his family, including a growing band of nieces, great-nieces and great-nephews, who will treasure many memories of David, not least his highly original poetry and sonorous baritone. Private funeral in London. Donations encouraged to St George's Hospital Charity (no 241527).

NOULTON John David died on 4th May 2017, aged 78. Married to the late Anne Elizabeth, Beloved father to Mark, Steve, Simon, Jane and "best mate" to Vivien Farquarson. Grandfather to Hannah, Tom, Jessica, Isabella and Sam. Much loved and missed by all including "the bears" Kitty and Rosie. Funeral to be held at St Ann's Church, Kingston Hill, on 15th May 2017, at 12.30pm.

POWELL Brian Thomas died peacefully on 21st April 2017, aged 74. A life lived in full and at the end, dignified, graceful, surrounded by loving family. Funeral at Honour Oak, May 11th.

SCOTT Nicholas Colin Jack (Numph) on 26th April 2017, aged 66, in Bombay after a short illness. Father of Gioconda, Jackson, George and Amber. Funeral private, memorial service to be announced later.

TALBOT RICE Elizabeth died on 5th May 2017, aged 85. Author and military historian. Funeral at St Andrew's church, Coln Rogers, on Wednesday 24th May, at 12pm.

WHEN Major James Francis Thorneycroft (RA, Retd.) died peacefully on 26th April 2017, aged 92. Beloved husband of Patricia, father of Andrew, Francis, Edward and Sarah (decd.), grandfather of Laura, Alexander, Bertie, Archie, Eleanor and Hamish, great-grandfather of Kara and Finlay. Service of thanksgiving at St Mary's, Redbourn, on Saturday 3rd June at 2.30pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired, to Parkinson's UK.

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NOBLE CALEDONIA



ALONG THE ADRIATIC COAST

A cruise along the coasts of Croatia & Montenegro aboard the Princess Eleganza



Even the most jaded of travellers cannot fail to be won over by the beauty of the Adriatic Coast. The sea is an intense blue and the islands are amazingly picturesque. Mountains sweep down to the sea covered in rich vegetation, islands lace the coast creating endless inviting waterways and channels and on shore there are great historic villages, towns and cities.

Princess Eleganza

Built in 2015, this beautifully crafted vessel sails the Adriatic coast taking in the highlights of this stunning area. With a maximum of just 36 guests, the vessel benefits from a relaxed, informal and friendly atmosphere and is the perfect ship to escape the formalities of larger vessels and enjoy the casual nature of small ship cruising. The 19 cabins are finished to the highest standard with sleek lines and neutral colours. Whether you choose to spend your time aboard on the spacious Sun Deck on a comfortable lounger, or relaxing in the seated outdoor area on the Promenade Deck, the ship is the perfect place to watch the passing scenery. Meals on board are a casual affair. Breakfast is buffet style with eggs cooked to order. Lunch and dinner are served, and feature locally sourced fresh food. In good weather there will be the opportunity to dine al-fresco. When dining ashore independently, your knowledgeable Cruise Director will recommend popular restaurants.



We are delighted to have once again chartered the Princess Eleganza for a series of cruises which explore the coastline between the attractive Croatian town of Opatija and Kotor in Montenegro, a land of stunning scenery and equally enthralling architecture. When devising the itinerary for the vessel which accommodates just 36 guests we did so with the view that we have a private yacht and were therefore able to create a journey which is somewhat different from regular cruises. We are able to visit some marvellous places which do not cater for the big ships and each night we remain moored in the picturesque harbours. Most vessels sail from the ports at the end of the day, thereby missing the floodlit splendour and lively café society which is so atmospheric in the evening. Remaining moored overnight allows the opportunity to dine ashore on certain evenings.

We will sail through some truly beautiful scenery which you can appreciate whilst relaxing on the sun deck including cruising through the world famous islets that make up the Kornati National Park and through the fjord-like entrance to Kotor. Other scenic attractions include our excursion to the Zrmanja Canyon and the majestic waterfalls of Krka. In addition we will spend time walking through the beautiful old towns of Rab, Hvar and Korcula and explore the historic wonders of Zadar, Dubrovnik and Split with their history which dates back to Roman times. This heady mix of islands and ports represents a fascinating itinerary combining as it does some 'must see' sites together with little known and rarely visited places that are perfectly suited for our vessel.

The Itinerary in Brief

Day 1 London Heathrow to Opatija, Croatia. Fly by scheduled flight to Zagreb. On arrival, we will enjoy a brief city tour of Zagreb before transferring to the Princess Eleganza in Opatija. Enjoy a Welcome Cocktail and Dinner on board.

Day 2 Rab. We sail during breakfast for the island of Rab, arriving around lunchtime. Here we will enjoy some time at leisure to

meander through the narrow old alleys. In the early evening, a guided walk will take us through the picturesque Old Town, a perfectly preserved late Medieval Adriatic settlement. We have the opportunity this evening to dine ashore and sample one of the many local restaurants.

Day 3 Zadar. This morning we cruise towards Zadar, once a dominant city on



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the Adriatic Coast rivalling Venice, Zadar is today a treasured city which has preserved its historical core. Enjoy an afternoon walking tour strolling around the old town with its Roman columns and portals, Romanesque churches and Renaissance and Baroque palaces. In the evening we have the chance to dine in one of the many restaurants in Zadar as we moor overnight.

Day 4 Zadar & Zrmanja Gorge. After breakfast we make our excursion to the Zrmanja Canyon. The River Zrmanja is 69 kilometres long and flows into the Adriatic. At the dramatic entrance to the gorge, we will board a motor launch for the one hour cruise to Obrovac, where we will enjoy a lunch of local specialities before taking a



walk. Return to the ship this afternoon and enjoy dinner on board and perhaps an after dinner stroll in Zadar.

Day 5 Sibenik & Krka National Park.

This morning sail to Sibenik. After lunch on board we will enjoy a walk through the historic town of Sibenik seeing the Cathedral of St. James, the old city walls and the theatre. Later this afternoon we will visit the majestic waterfalls of Krka where we will enjoy a guided walk on wooden walkways and across bridges through this unique fjord like landscape with its multiple waterfalls and interesting flora and fauna. Return to the ship for dinner on board.

Day 6 Split. This morning we cruise to Split where we will arrive at lunchtime for a guided walk through the town. Explore the Palace of Diocletian which contains Split's old town within its walls, making it the only Roman palace that has been continuously inhabited since Roman times. It is a wonderful spot to wander the maze of streets. We will moor centrally this evening and you can enjoy dinner in one of the many restaurants on the Riva Promenade.

Day 7 Hvar. This morning we cruise to the island of Hvar. We anchor during the late afternoon in Stari Grad, where we take a short coach ride across the island to the attractive Old Town of Hvar for a guided walk. We begin in the main square which



is the largest piazza in Dalmatia, see the cathedral, the Franciscan Monastery and the Benedictine Nunnery. After some free time, return to the ship and enjoy dinner on board as we moor overnight in Stari Grad. Perhaps enjoy an after dinner stroll.

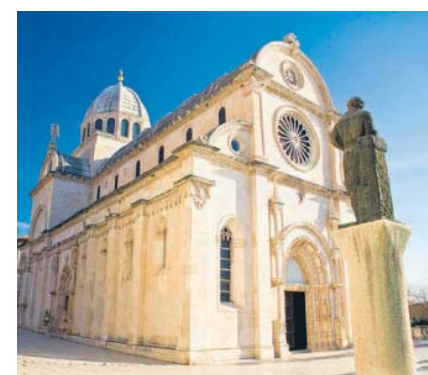
Day 8 Korcula. During breakfast we set sail for Korcula the reputed birthplace of the explorer Marco Polo and arrive this afternoon. Enjoy some free time to walk along Korcula's crooked Medieval streets to the elegant squares which are flanked with palaces of the old nobility. Again there is an opportunity for individual dining in the Old Town as we moor overnight.

Day 9 Dubrovnik. We set sail in the early morning for Dubrovnik the "Pearl of the Adriatic", where we arrive after lunch. After a short drive to Pile Gate, we then have an afternoon guided walk through the unique Medieval Old Town of Dubrovnik, which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979. See the major attractions such as the Rector's Palace, the Romanesque-Gothic Dominican and Franciscan Monasteries and the Sponza Palace. Return to the ship for dinner on board this evening.

Day 10 Kotor, Montenegro. Be on deck as we enter the Gulf of Kotor and sail up the fjord-like entrance to the Medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kotor. Enjoy a guided walk through the town seeing the 12th century St Tryphon's cathedral and the ancient town gates. This evening, choose from the many charming restaurants in this stunning location as we dine ashore.

Day 11 Kotor. After breakfast we travel to the River Rijeka Crnojevica, which includes a photo-stop at a point where the river flows into Lake Shkoder before taking a boat trip to Virpazar. Continue to Plantaze Sipcanik, one of Montenegro's largest vineyards, where we enjoy a traditional lunch in the impressive wine cellar, followed by a wine tasting and a tour of the vineyard. In the late afternoon we drive back to the ship and enjoy the Farewell Dinner this evening.

Day 12 Kotor to London Gatwick. Disembark this morning and transfer to Tivat for our return scheduled flight to London Gatwick.



Kotor to Opatija Itinerary

Please note that the following departure dates operate from Kotor to Opatija and are 10 nights instead of 11 nights: 15th April, 6th, 27th May, 13th June 2018. For a full itinerary please refer to www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

2018 Departure Dates & Prices per Person

15th to 25th April; 25th April to 6th May; 6th to 16th May; 16th to 27th May; 27th May to 6th June; 13th to 23rd June; 3rd to 14th October

Special offer prices per person based on double occupancy start from **£2595** for a category 1 double cabins. Single cabins from **£3095**.

Price Includes:

- Economy class scheduled air travel,
- 10 or 11 nights aboard the Princess Eleganza
- Breakfast and lunch daily, 5 or 6 dinners on board as mentioned in the itinerary
- Shore excursions with English speaking guides
- Noble Caledonia Tour Manager
- Transfers
- Gratuities

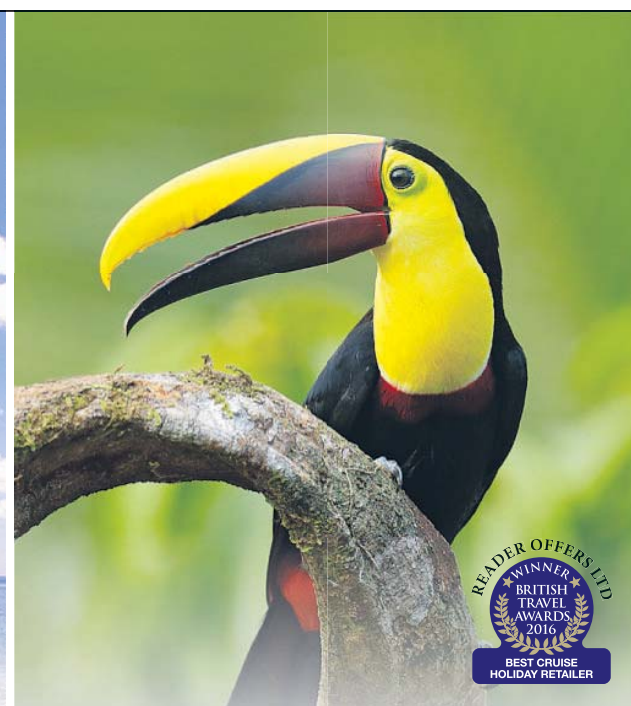
NB. Flights schedules are yet to be released at the time of going to print and the itinerary may change on their release. All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations. Travel insurance and meals described as ashore in the itinerary are not included in the price.

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JANUARY 2018

Sun 7	Embark <i>Magellan</i> and depart London Tilbury
Mon 8	Amsterdam, Netherlands
Thu 11	Lisbon, Portugal
Sat 13	Funchal, Madeira (depart early pm)
Tue 16	Mindelo, Cape Verde
Mon 22	Santarém, Brazil
Tue 23	Boca da Valeria, Brazil
Wed 24 - Thu 25	Manaus, Brazil (overnight stay on board) The capital of the state of Amazonas and the hub of the whole Amazon region. Located on the banks of the Rio Negro, Manaus is only four miles from where the 'Meeting of the Waters' takes place, where Rio Solimões collides with the Negro to form the Amazon
Fri 26	Parintins, Brazil
Sat 27	Alter do Chaõ, Brazil (depart early pm) Situating amid lush vegetation on the Rio Tapajós, the small settlement consists of rustic native cottages sitting at the fringe of the forest above the white river sands. Here visitors enjoy swimming in the amazingly clear waters of the Tapajós
Sun 28	<i>Cruising the Amazon River</i> Keep an eye out for the abundance of lush vegetation, beautiful flora and of course endemic species of birds, amphibians, fish, mammals and reptiles which make the Amazon their home
Mon 29	Icoaraci (for Belém), Brazil
Wed 31	Îles du Salut, French Guiana

FEBRUARY 2018

Fri 2	Scarborough, Tobago
Sat 3	St. George's, Grenada Nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves and cocoa aromas fill the air. This Isle of Spice is a tropical gem of lush rainforests, white sand beaches, secluded coves and exotic flowers
Sun 4	Bridgetown, Barbados
Mon 5	Castries, St. Lucia
Tue 6	St. John's, Antigua Dazzling colours are everywhere in St. John's, Antigua; from the colonial architecture, to the delicious tropical fruits on offer at the bustling local market
Mon 12	Horta, Azores
Tue 13	Ponta Delgada, Azores
Sun 18	Arrive London Tilbury

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea



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Today Dry, bright and warm with long sunny spells for most areas. Cloudier in the far north. Max 17C (63F), min 1C (34F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy
du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain,
sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder
*=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C	Rain mm	Sun hr*
	midday yesterday	24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	
Aberdeen	11	S	0.0
Aberporth	10	S	0.0
Anglesey	11	PC	0.0
Aviemore	15	S	0.0
Barnstaple	11	PC	0.0
Bedford	9	DU	0.0
Belfast	12	DU	0.0
Birmingham	10	C	0.0
Bournemouth	11	C	0.0
Bridlington	9	PC	0.0
Bristol	12	PC	0.0
Camborne	11	DU	0.0
Cardiff	10	PC	0.0
Edinburgh	10	PC	0.0
Eskdalemuir	11	PC	0.0
Glasgow	13	PC	0.0
Guernsey	12	PC	0.0
Hereford	10	DU	0.0
Herstmonceux	12	C	0.0
Ipswich	10	PC	0.0
Isle of Man	10	PC	0.0
Isle of Wight	12	C	0.0
Keswick	11	PC	0.0
Kinloss	10	S	0.0
Leeds	7	DU	0.0
Lerwick	6	DU	0.0
Leuchars	11	PC	0.0
Lincoln	8	DU	0.0
Liverpool	10	PC	0.0
London	11	DU	0.0
Lyneham	10	PC	0.0
Manchester	10	C	0.0
Margate	11	PC	0.0
Milford Haven	12	PC	0.0
Newcastle	9	DU	0.0
Nottingham	8	DU	0.0
Oxford	10	DU	0.0
Plymouth	11	DU	0.0
Portland	10	PC	0.0
Scilly, St Mary's	12	DU	0.0
Shoreham	10	C	0.0
Shrewsbury	9	PC	0.0
Skye	8	PC	0.0
Snowdonia	11	S	0.0
Southend	10	C	0.0
Stornoway	11	SH	0.0
Tiree	12	PC	0.0
Whitehaven	9	S	0.0
Wick	8	DU	0.0
Yeovilton	11	PC	0.0

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

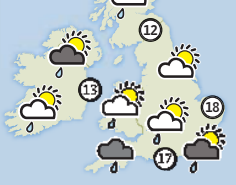
Alicante	22	F	Madeira	21	S
Amsterdam	12	S	Madrid	28	F
Athens	25	S	Majorca	23	F
Auckland	20	S	Malaga	24	F
Bahrain	33	S	Malta	21	B
Bangkok	34	S	Melbourne	13	S
Barbados	31	S	Mexico City	26	S
Barcelona	18	S	Miami	29	S
Beijing	26	F	Milan	19	B
Beirut	28	F	Mombasa	25	C
Belgrade	17	C	Montreal	4	D
Berlin	9	B	Moscow	4	C
Bermuda	21	C	Mumbai	33	S
Bordeaux	17	F	Munich	9	C
Brussels	12	F	Nairobi	23	C
Bucharest	14	C	Naples	21	B
Budapest	11	F	New Orleans	27	S
Buenos Aires	19	R	New York	13	S
Cairo	38	F	Nice	19	S
Calcutta	35	B	Nicosia	27	F
Canberra	16	F	Oslo	7	S
Cape Town	19	C	Paris	14	S
Chicago	12	S	Perth	19	S
Copenhagen	10	F	Prague	6	B
Corfu	22	S	Reykjavik	6	D
Delhi	39	B	Riga	7	F
Dubai	40	F	Rio de Janeiro	26	S
Dublin	11	S	Riyadh	38	S
Faro	20	B	Rome	19	S
Florence	18	S	San Francisco	17	S
Frankfurt	11	F	Santiago	15	B
Geneva	12	B	Sao Paulo	21	F
Gibraltar	21	S	Seoul	17	B
Harare	24	B	Seychelles	32	S
Helsinki	3	S	Singapore	31	S
Hong Kong	28	B	St Petersburg	4	C
Honolulu	27	S	Stockholm	2	SN
Istanbul	25	S	Sydney	19	S
Jerusalem	39	F	Tel Aviv	29	F
Johannesburg	19	B	Tenerife	22	S
Kuala Lumpur	31	S	Tokyo	20	F
Lanzarote	22	B	Vancouver	13	B
Las Palmas	23	S	Venice	18	B
Lima	22	C	Vienna	6	S
Lisbon	20	S	Warsaw	7	F
Los Angeles	18	B	Washington	14	B
Luxor	38	F	Zurich	11	S

Five days ahead

Becoming more unsettled with rain or showers in many areas later this week

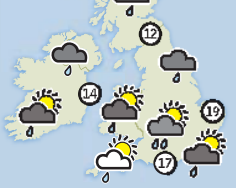
Tomorrow

A largely dry and bright day for most areas with isolated showers in England and Wales. A band of rain, heavy in places, will move into the south of England during the evening.
Max 18C, min 3C



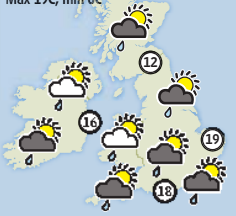
Friday

A wet day with rain across the north of England, northern Ireland and Scotland. Further south and east there will be showers, which may be heavy and thundery in places.
Max 19C, min 5C



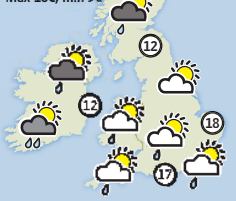
Saturday

Sunshine and showers, with the showers most frequent farther west. It will feel warm in sunny intervals particularly in the south and east.
Max 19C, min 6C



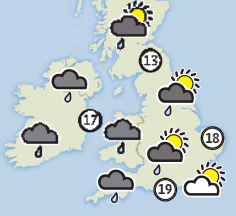
Sunday

There is a risk of showers or a longer spell of rain across northern and western Scotland. Across England and Wales it will be largely dry and it will feel mild in any sunshine.
Max 18C, min 5C

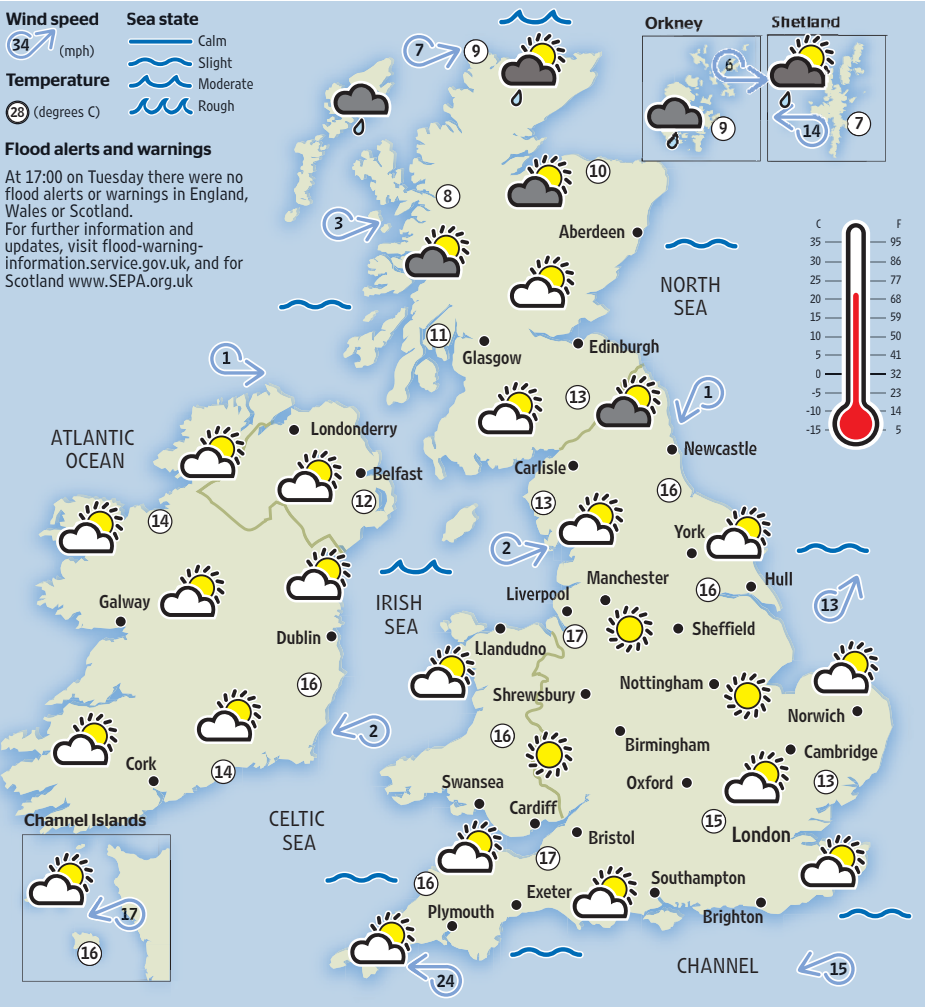


Monday

A band of rain will move in from the west. This is likely to be heaviest and most persistent in the north and west.
Max 19C, min 3C



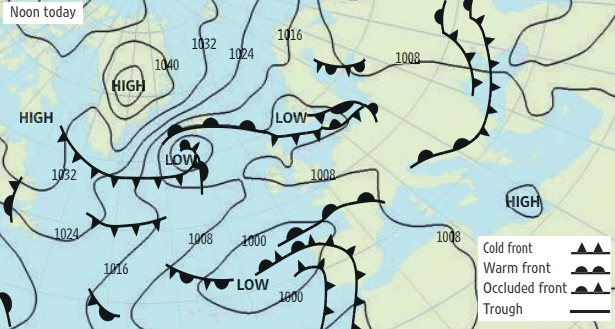
The Times weather page is provided by Weatherquest



General situation: A dry and bright day almost everywhere. Winds will be light and it will feel warm in long sunny spells. It will be cloudier with outbreaks of light rain across the far north of Scotland.
SE Eng, London, Cen S Eng, SW Eng, Channel Is, E Anglia: Patchy low cloud will break and clear through the morning to leave a sunny afternoon. It will feel warm, particularly in the south. Light easterly winds. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 5C (41F).

Tides				
Tidal predictions.				
Heights in metres				
Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	01:56	4.0	14:11	4.0
Avonmouth	07:49	12.8	20:09	12.9
Belfast	11:56	3.4	--:--	--
Cardiff	07:40	11.8	20:00	12.0
Devonport	06:18	5.2	18:38	5.3
Dover	11:59	6.4	--:--	--
Dublin	00:14	3.7	12:32	3.8
Falmouth	05:47	4.9	18:05	4.9
Greenock	01:09	3.3	13:10	3.3
Harwich	00:08	3.9	12:34	4.0
Holyhead	11:03	5.3	23:21	5.4
Hull	06:55	7.0	19:11	7.1
Leith	03:14	5.2	15:33	5.3
Liverpool	11:59	9.0	--:--	--
London Bridge	02:25	6.9	14:46	6.9
Lowestoft	10:22	2.4	22:24	2.4
Milford Haven	06:52	6.6	19:09	6.7
Morecambe	12:00	8.9	--:--	--
Newhaven	11:51	6.4	--:--	--
Newquay	05:43	6.6	18:00	6.6
Oban	06:12	3.7	18:36	3.8
Penzance	05:15	5.3	17:33	5.3
Portsmouth	12:04	4.4	--:--	--
Shoreham	12:09	5.9	--:--	--
Southampton	01:29	4.3	13:49	4.2
Swansea	06:55	9.0	19:14	9.2
Tees	04:17	5.1	16:31	5.1
Weymouth	07:23	2.0	19:49	2.1

N Isles, NE Scotland, Moray Firth, NW Scotland: An overcast day with patchy light rain or drizzle, which will be most persistent in the far north. Light and variable winds. Maximum 10C (50F), minimum 5C (41F).
NE & NW Eng, Cen N Eng, IoM, Republic of Ireland, Lake District: An overcast morning, but cloud will lift and clear to give a bright and sunny afternoon. Winds will be light and variable in direction. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 2C (36F).



Synoptic situation
A ridge of high pressure will continue to influence the UK, with dry and bright weather across most of the British Isles. In the far north of Scotland a weather front associated with a low pressure system near Iceland will bring cloud and light rain or drizzle. In Spain and Portugal an area of low pressure will bring a spell of heavy and persistent rain.

Highs and lows 24hrs to 5pm yesterday Warmest: Castlederg, Co Tyrone, 17.9C Coldest: Shap, -5.1C Wettest: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.4mm Sunniest: Tiree, Argyll, 15.1hrs	Sun and moon For Greenwich Sun rises: 05.15 Sun sets: 20.37 Moon rises: 20.04 Moon sets: 06.01 Thu Final quarter: May 19
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Weather Eye
Paul Simons



It looked like a scene from another planet — the skies over Beijing turned into an orange vision of hell last Thursday. An apocalyptic dust storm swept down from deserts in the north and enveloped the city, turning skyscrapers into ghostly silhouettes and leaving people choking in toxic air as the sandy dust mixed with local air pollution.

However, the most otherworldly sight of all was a truly rare phenomenon — the moon turned blue. The extraordinary vision was created by microscopic dust particles in the air that were just the right size to scatter the moonlight, leaving only a blue colour behind. “Once in a blue moon” is indeed rare, but it has happened after volcanic eruptions. The best known of these occasions was when Krakatoa erupted in Indonesia in 1883, sending vast plumes of fine ash across the globe. For years afterwards blue moons and blue suns were seen in various parts of the world.

Blue moons have also appeared in the smoky haze of great fires. One case happened in Scotland in September 1950, when the sun also turned blue.

“There it was, completely reversing the normal state of matters — a blue sun shining in a white sky,” described *The Scotsman* in Edinburgh. “All over the city people stopped to gaze at the sapphire sphere.” In fact, some people rang the newspaper asking if the end of the world was coming.

It was caused by smoke particles swept across the Atlantic from huge forest fires in Alberta, Canada. Just to prove that the smoke was responsible, an RAF jet fighter took off high into the sky. The pilot reported that the sun remained a vivid blue up to five miles in altitude in a layer of smoky brown haze — but that above the haze the sky was clear and the sun was its usual colour.

All of which was summed up well in an old poem *Rede Me and Be Not Wrothe*, written in 1528: “If they say the moon is blue,/ We must believe that it is true.”

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Sport

We're closing gap on rivals, insists Ainslie

Sailing

Ron Lewis

Sir Ben Ainslie admits that his Land Rover BAR team are trailing behind their rivals as they attempt to become the first British outfit to win the America's Cup.

With just 16 days to go until the start of racing in Bermuda, Ainslie says that they have ground to make up on the more established teams, although he believes that improvements to the BAR boat will make them more competitive.

"There has been a split between the existing teams and the new teams, but I think that split is closing massively as we are getting more time in these boats," Ainslie said.

"We are making massive gains and getting closer and closer all the time. The question is can we close that gap quickly enough and learn to sail the boat well enough that we can race it hard and race it well round the course."

Hopes have been high that BAR can bring the America's Cup back to Britain for the first time in 166 years after they claimed victory in the America's Cup World Series (ACWS) last year. That gives BAR a two-point head start when the Challenger Series starts on May 26, but while the ACWS was raced in identical boats, the America's Cup is as much about boat design as it is sailing ability.

BAR and Groupama Team France are the only two new teams among the six in Bermuda. Oracle Team USA, the holders, Emirates Team New Zealand and Artemis contested the previous series in San Francisco in 2013, while Softbank Team Japan agreed a deal with Oracle to share technology.

After two sets of practice races, Artemis, the Swedish team, look to be strongest, but Ainslie is certain that BAR have more improvements they can make.

"The teams are all in different stages," he said. "Artemis are looking very polished at the minute. Oracle, Japan and New Zealand, who have only just turned up here, are looking strong as well."

"The four teams, including Japan

Key America's Cup dates

May 26-June 3 Round-robin races in Louis Vuitton America's Cup Qualifiers

June 4-8 Challenger Series semi-finals

June 10-12 Challenger Series final (best of 9)

June 17 Start of America's Cup final (best of 13)

because of their association with Oracle that carried on from the last Cup with their teams and their design teams intact, have been a step ahead through most of this campaign and you can see that over the past two or three months as the raceboats have been launched.

"It's not just a case of you put the boat in and it's ready to go, there will be a lot of new components coming on to the boat all the time. Last week the boat spent three days in the shed, making some significant changes. That was another performance jump, which is what we are after."

But the best boat will not necessarily win the Cup. With all the boats flying out of the water for nearly the entire course, any small mistake that ditches the boat in the water can cost large periods of time. The winner

Ainslie and his team are bidding to bring the America's Cup back to Britain after a wait of 166 years

could end up being the crew who make the fewest errors.

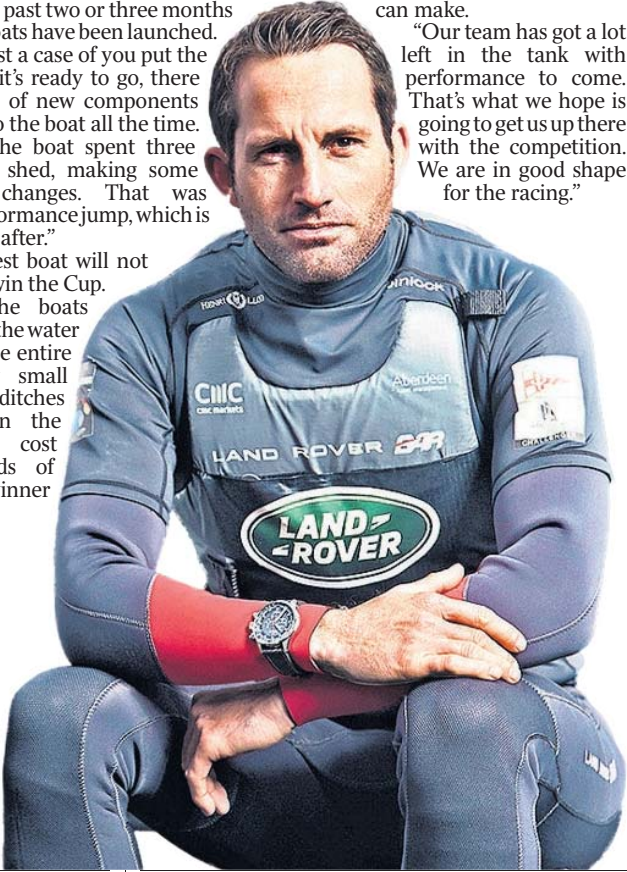
"We've been up to 46 knots, which is getting close to 60mph," Ainslie said. "That's a really impressive performance for any boat, let alone a sailing boat. They are really incredible pieces of kit."

"It's cool to see how far the boats have developed from our first testing boat a couple of years ago in Portsmouth to what we have now. It's phenomenal what has been achieved."

"It's full on now. The boat builders are working ridiculously hard to make changes in as small a time as possible so we can get back out on the water."

"It's a huge grind but there is a huge motivation there because we can all see the potential gains that we can make."

"Our team has got a lot left in the tank with performance to come. That's what we hope is going to get us up there with the competition. We are in good shape for the racing."



Murray, who won in Madrid yesterday, thinks the Aegon Classic organisers had ticket sales and coverage in mind when deciding to give Sharapova a wild card

Murray questions wild card

Tennis

Stuart Fraser Tennis Writer

Andy Murray yesterday added weight to the suggestion that money has been prioritised over morals by the Lawn Tennis Association in its decision to offer Maria Sharapova a wild card for the Aegon Classic in Birmingham.

The Times revealed yesterday that Sharapova will take up a slot in the main draw, thanks to the generosity of tournament organisers, for the WTA Premier tour event at the Edgbaston Priory Club from June 17 to 25.

It is understood that some senior figures within the LTA are uncomfortable with the message sent out by the decision to award a wild card to a doping offender who has only recently returned from a 15-month suspension.

Murray, the world No 1, acknowledges that it will have been made with increased ticket sales and coverage for the tournament in mind, but added weight to the suggestion that money has been prioritised over morals.

"I do think the tournaments are going to do what they think is going to sell the most tickets, give them the most coverage, get the most people in to watch," Murray told BBC Sport. "I'm sure the LTA saw the coverage that was given to the match [between Sharapova and Eugenie Bouchard in Madrid] and was given to Maria's run in Stuttgart as

well, the amount of media covering it, and think that's what's best for the tournament in Birmingham. But I'm sure it's split a lot of opinion."

"I'm sure the discussions about whether to give it or not were long and I'm sure there were some disagreements, but they've obviously done what they think is right for that event and maybe haven't thought as much about the wider implications."

On the other hand, Jo Durie, the former British No 1, is among those who welcome the presence of Sharapova on the British grass courts. "I don't have a problem with it," Durie, the former British No 1, told The Times. "Of course Birmingham are going to offer a wild card, it stirs up interest. I'm OK with it because she served her ban."

Bouchard's three-set win against Sharapova in the first round of the Mutua Madrid Open on Monday was a thrilling battle, and Durie believes that the Russian will help bring back a level of intensity to the women's tour.

"I think a lot of passion has gone out of the women's game," Durie said. "What we saw on Monday night was passion out on the court. If that's going to fire it up, give her more wild cards."

Murray opened his Madrid campaign yesterday with a 6-4, 6-3 win against Romanian wild card Marius Copil, apparently unhindered by the elbow injury he suffered last month.

Results

Football

Champions League

Semi-final, second leg

Juventus (2) 2 Monaco (0) 1
Mandzukic 33 Mbappé 69
Alves 44

● Juventus win 4-1 on agg

Ladbrokes Scottish Premiership
Play-off quarter-final, first leg: Greenock Morton 1 Dundee United 2.

Cycling

Giro d'Italia: Stage four (Cefalu to Etna, 181km): 1, J Polanc (Slovenia, UAE Emirates) 4hr 55min 58sec; 2, I Zakarin (Russ, Katusha) 19sec behind; 3, G Thomas (GB, Sky) at 29sec. **Selected others:** 7, B Jungels (Lux, Quick-Step); 8, A Yates (GB, Orica); 10, V Nibali (It, Bahrain); 11, N Quintana (Col, Movistar) all at 38sec. **Overall general classification:** 1, Jungels 19hr 41min 56sec; 2, Thomas at 6sec; 3, Yates at 10sec; 4, Nibali; 5, D Pozzovivo (It, AG2R); 6, Quintana all at 14sec.

Tennis

ATP & WTA Mutua Madrid Open

Men: First round: F López (Sp) bt E Escobedo (US) 6-4, 6-4; J-W Tsonga (Fr) bt A Kuznetsov (Russ) 7-6 (7-5), 6-7 (5-7); 7-5; N Almagro (Sp) bt T Robredo (Sp) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; R Harrison (US) bt B Tomic (Aus) 7-5, 4-6, 6-2; I Karlovic (Cro) bt R Bautista Agut (Sp) 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (9-11), 7-6

(9-7); B Coric (Cro) bt M Zverev (Ger) 6-3, 7-6 (7-5). **Second round:** A Murray (GB) bt M Copil (Rom) 6-4, 6-3; Dominic Thiem (Austria) bt J Donaldson (US) 6-3, 6-4. **Women: Second round:** S Stosur (Aus) bt M Duque-Marino (Col) 6-3, 7-5; C Vandeweghe (US) bt L Siegemund (Ger) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; S Halep (Rom) bt R Vinci (It) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (7-2); M Doi (Japan) bt D Vekic (Cro) 6-1, 6-2.

Fixtures

Football

Kick-offs 7.45pm

Premier League: Southampton v Arsenal.
Champions League: Semi-final, second leg: Atletico Madrid (0) v Real Madrid (3).

Play-off semi-finals, first leg: Ladbrokes Scottish Championship: Airdrieonians v Alloa; Brechin City v Raith Rovers. **League One:** Annan v Forfar; Montrose v Peterhead.

Cricket

11am unless stated

Royal London One-Day Cup: North group: Derbyshire Falcons v Warwickshire Bears.
Emirates Old Trafford: Lancashire Lightning v Worcestershire. **Northampton:** Northants Steelbacks v Yorkshire Vikings (2.0). **South group: Chelmsford:** Essex Eagles v Sussex Sharks (2.0). **Bristol:** Gloucestershire v Kent Spitfires. **Radlett:** Middlesex v Glamorgan. **Taunton:** Somerset v Hampshire.

Yesterday's racing results

● Rob Wright followed up Monday's winning nap with Quench Dolly (20-1) at Leicester yesterday

Ffos Las

Going: good

2.20 (1m 7f 182yd hdl) 1, **Comanche Chieftain (CAN)** (J E Moore, 9-1); 2, Looks Like Power (11-4); 3, With Pleasure (16-1). 9 ran. Nk, 3l. N King.

2.50 (2m 4f hdl) 1, **Mon Palois** (David Bass, 4-1); 2, A Bold Move (2-1); 3, Minotaur (7-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: Corbett Court. 2l, ½l. K Bailey.

3.20 (2m 7f 177yd ch) 1, **Sir Ivan** (N D Fahily, 2-1); 2, Cole Harden (4-7 fav); 3, Our Reward (14-1). 4 ran. 1¼l, 26l. H Fry.

3.50 (2m 4f hdl) 1, **Positively Dylan** (Adam Wedge, 6-1); 2, Paddys Motorbike (11-2); 3, Allelu Alleluia (12-1). 13 ran. 1¼l, 2l. E Williams.

4.20 (2m 7f 177yd ch) 1, **Super Scorpion** (Thomas Bellamy, 6-1); 2, Ugolin De Beaumont (3-1 fav); 3, Lost Legend (8-1). 8 ran. 1¼l, 9l. Mrs D Hamer.

4.50 (1m 7f 182yd flat) 1, **Storm Of Intrigue** (Alan Doyle, 7-4 fav); 2, Angels Antics (15-8); 3, Vision D'automne (16-1). 5 ran. NR: Don't Ask, Rhaegar. 4l, 3¼l. N Henderson.

Placepot: £48.60. Quadpot: £20.20.

Fakenham

Going: good

2.10 (2m 3yd hdl) 1, **Back To Balloo** (Ryan Winks, 3-1); 2, Lightentertainment (10-1); 3, Ballycash (8-11 fav). 6 ran. NR: No No Cardinal. 20l, nk. P Winks.

2.40 (2m 5f 44yd ch) 1, **That's The Deal** (Lee Edwards, 16-1); 2, Jamrham (3-1 fav); 3, Ohms Law (15-2). 9 ran. 3l, 1l. J Cornwall.

3.10 (2m 4f 1yd hdl) 1, **Tales Of The Tweed** (Nicole Boynville, 11-8); 2, Fortified Bay (Evens fav); 3, Trevisani (6-1). 6l, 25l. N Henderson.

3.40 (3m 5f 24yd ch) 1, **Amiral Collonges** (L Treadwell, 6-1); 2, Itoldyou (6-1); 3, Talk Of The South (9-2 fav). 10 ran. 5l, 7l. H J Evans.

4.10 (2m 4f 1yd hdl) 1, **Amron Kali** (Nick Scholfield, 6-4 fav); 2, Pretty Rose (6-1); 3, Sureness (14-1). 6 ran. 17l, 7l. P Henderson.

4.40 (3m 38yd ch) 1, **Master Workman** (Mr S Davies-Thomas, 5-2); 2, In Fairness (16-1); 3, Tugboat (28-1). 8 ran. 26l, 17l. D Kemp.

Placepot: £554.00. Quadpot: £40.00.

Ayr

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.00 (6f) 1, **Dalton** (D Tudhope, 5-2); 2, Hee Haw (10-1); 3, Poet's Reward (13-8 fav). 5 ran. NR: Calypso Jo. 3¼l, 6l. D O'Meara.

2.30 (1m 2f) 1, **Paddyplex** (P Makin, 14-1); 2, Fiendish (15-8); 3, Archibelle (7-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: Born To Be Alive, Formative, Sketch Book Venue. 1l, 9l. K Dalgleish.

3.00 (1m 2f) 1, **Euchen Glen** (S H James, 13-2);

2, Royal Regent (16-1); 3, Warp Factor (6-4 fav). 8 ran. 1¼l, sh hd. J Goldie.

3.30 (1m 2f) 1, **Visitant** (A Mullen, 10-1); 2, Stoneboat Bill (3-1 fav); 3, Arithmetic (8-1). 10 ran. NR: Steccando, Tambour. 5l, nk. D Thompson.

4.00 (6f) 1, **Burrischoole Abbey** (Clifford Lee, 7-2); 2, El Hombre (11-2); 3, Logi (7-2). 7 ran. NR: Dawoodi, Little Miss Lola. 1¼l, ½l. K Burke.

4.30 (7f 50yd) 1, **Tommy G** (S H James, 5-1); 2, Gengarry (7-2jt-fav); 3, Ionization (4-1). 7 ran. NR: Dragon King, Redvers. 1l, ½l. J Goldie.

5.00 (1m) 1, **Not A Bad Out Day** (David Egan, 6-4 fav); 2, New Abbey Angel (3-1); 3, Joyful Star (11-1). 8 ran. NR: Duncan Of Scotland. 3l, 1¼l. J Feane.

Placepot: £67.60. Quadpot: £21.60.

Exeter

Going: good (good to firm in places)

5.45 (2m 175yd hdl) 1, **Brahms De Clermont** (Sam Twiston-Davies, 4-9 fav); 2, Air Squadron (5-1); 3, Dusky Raider (10-1). 6 ran. NR: Le Drapeau, Oscars Boss. 15l, 7l. P Nicholls.

6.15 (2m 2f 111yd hdl) 1, **Foxy Act** (Miss P Fuller, 20-1); 2, Swatow (4-11 fav); 3, Hoola Hula (13-8). NR: Goodgirlteresa, Time For Champers. 12l, 17l. C Down.

6.45 (2m 7f 25yd hdl) 1, **Doctor Look Here** (Lucy Gardner, 5-1); 2, Captain Buck's (3-1); 3, Linguine (11-1). 6 ran. 4¼l, 6l. Mrs S Gardner.

7.15 (2m 3f 48yd ch) 1, **Tempestefloresco** (P J Brennan, 7-4); 2, Ink Master (11-10 fav); 3, Lemon's Gent (6-1). 4 ran. NR: Gowanauthat, Purple 'N Gold. 9l, 18l. C Tizzard.

7.45 (3m 54yd ch) 1, **Mountain Cliche** (Mr D I J Andrews, 7-2); 2, Forrardon Xmoor (7-4 fav); 3, Brandy And Red (15-2). 5 ran. NR: Colorado Doc, Inch Rock. 7l, ¾l. N J Dawe.

8.15 (2m 175yd flat) 1, **Equus Amadeus** (Aidan Coleman, 5-2); 2, Symphony Of Angels (7-2); 3, St John's (5-1). 7 ran. NR: Just Another Vodka. 4¼l, 1l. T Lacey.

Placepot: £2,815.50. Quadpot: £26.80.

Leicester

Going: good to firm (good in places)

6.00 (5f) 1, **Marchingontoegether** (S De Sousa, 14-1); 2, Arabian Jazz (12-1); 3, Queen Of Kalahari (9-4 fav). 15 ran. 2¼l, ½l. I Furtado.

6.30 (6f) 1, **Quench Dolly** (F Sweeney, 20-1, **Rob Wright's nap**); 2, The Stalking Moon (13-2); 3, Island Cloud (25-1). 11 ran. 8l, 2¼l. J Gallagher.

7.00 (1m 2f) 1, **Burguillos** (J Fortune, 7-4 fav); 2, Wapping (4-1); 3, Compton Mill (6-1). 6 ran. 1¼l, nk. A King.

7.30 (1m 53yd) 1, **Naval Warfare** (David Probert, 15-8 fav); 2, Sabador (4-1); 3, Art Echo (11-2). 5 ran. 1¼l, 3l. A Balding.

8.00 (7f) 1, **Private Mission** (A Kirby, 15-2); 2, Ejaaby (6-4 fav); 3, Il Sicario (3-1). 8 ran. NR: Archer's Arrow, Glory of Paris, Pennsylvania Dutch. 1¼l, 3l. H Morrison.

8.30 (7f) 1, **Pursuing Steed** (Charlie Bennett, 14-1); 2, Coverham (3-1 fav); 3, Delegate This Lord (14-1); 4, Luxford (7-1). NR: Jackman. 2¼l, 1l. H Morrison.

Placepot: £208.80. Quadpot: £3.70.

Chester

Rob Wright		
1.50	Yogi's Girl	4.05 Stradivarius
2.25	Tansholpan (nb)	4.35 Meccabah
3.00	El Astronaute	5.05 Zapper Cass
3.35	Who Dares Wins (nap)	
Thunderer: 2.25 Enable, 3.35 Who Dares Wins (nap). Racing UK		
Going: good (good to firm in places) Draw: low numbers best		

1.50 Stellar Group Lily Agnes Conditions ITV4

Stakes (2-Y-O: £12,450: 5f 15y) (11 runners)		
1	(10) 2 BIG TIME MAYBE 19 (BF) T Dascombe 9-2	R Kingscote 44
2	(4) 321 BLACK ORANGE 11 (D,G) Miss G Kelleway 9-2	M Dwyer 39
3	(8) 4 CENTRAL CITY 11 H Palmer 9-2	James Doyle 40
4	(5) 12 REQUINTO DAWN 25 (D,BF,S) R Fahey 9-2	T Hamilton ♦52
5	(11) SIR WALTER E Alston 9-2	J Hart --
6	(1) THE GOLDEN CUE 5 Hollinshead 9-2	R Ffrench --
7	(9) 21 EMILIA JAMES 13 (D,F) M Johnston 8-11	F Norton 50
8	(7) 43 FELISA 7 P D Evans 8-11	C Beasley 37
9	(2) 43 FLOSS THE HORRIS 8 P D Evans 8-11	S De Sousa 30
10	(6) 62 STORM DROSS 8 J Unett 8-11	R Powell --
11	(3) 01 YOGI'S GIRL 16 (D,F) P D Evans 8-11	J Egan 48

15-8 Requito Dawn, 7-2 Emilia James, 4-1 Big Time Maybe, 6-1 Yogi's Girl, 8-1 Central City, 12-1 others.
Rob Wright's choice: Yogi's Girl showed good speed when winning at Windsor and can make the most of a low draw **Dangers:** Requito Dawn, Felisa

2.25 Arkle Finance Cheshire Oaks ITV4

(Listed: 3-Y-O: £34,026: 1m 3f 75y) (7)		
1	(7) 14140- RICH LEGACY (F,G) R Beckett 9-5	O Murphy ♦90
2	(2) 05-1 ALLURINGLY 20 (G) A O'Brien (Ire) 9-0	R L Moore 82
3	(6) 310- ARGENTIERE 229 (F) M Treagoun 9-0	M Dwyer 79
4	(3) 1-3 ENABLE 19 J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori 89
5	(5) 15506- ERICA BING (G,S) J Hughes 9-0	F Norton 79
6	(1) 10-6 HIDDEN STEPS 25 (H,F) A Balding 9-0	D Probert 77
7	(4) 13- TANSHOLPAN 193 (S) R Varian 9-0	A Atzeni 80

7-4 Alluringly, 2-1 Enable, 5-1 Rich Legacy, 7-1 Tansholpan, 10-1 Argenterie, 20-1 others.
Wright choice: Tansholpan, useful as a juvenile, is bred to come into her own over middle distances and can make a winning return **Danger:** Alluringly

3.00 Boodles Diamond Handicap ITV4

(£18,675: 5f 15y) (13)		
1	(3) 0-0203 SIR MAXIMILIAN 90 (P,D,F,G,S) I Williams 8-9-7	James Doyle 105
2	(12) 1501-4 SOIE D'LEAU 19 (C,D,F,G,S) K Stubbs 5-9-2	T Hamilton ♦111

Bath

Rob Wright		
5.35	Fabric	7.35 Glens Wobbly
6.05	Captain Ryan	8.05 Quloob
6.35	Golden Easter	8.35 Classic Pursuit
7.05	Caledonia Laird	
Going: firm Draw: no advantage At The Races		

5.35 Handicap (3-Y-O: £2,911: 5f 10y) (4)		
1	(3) 521-4 DESERT SPORT 18 (D,BF) R Cowell 9-7	J Fortune
2	(2) 152-6 FABRIC 18 (D) R Hannan 9-6	P Dobbis
3	(4) 450-5 CORONATION COTTAGE 23 M Saunders 8-9	L Keniry
4	(1) 0-063 PRANCELINA 25 (D) Phil McEntee 8-8	Josephine Gordon

11-8 Desert Sport, 7-4 Fabric, 9-2 Prancelina, 8-1 Coronation Cottage.

6.05 Handicap (£2,264: 5f 160y) (10)		
1	(4) 015-5 CAPTAIN RYAN 9 (CD) G Deacon 6-9-7	Josephine Gordon
2	(10) 000-5 SILVER WINGS 14 P D Evans 4-9-5	David Egan (7)
3	(2) 4-006 JESSIE'S PLACE 39 (T) C Wallis 4-9-2	W A Carson
4	(7) 450-0 WILPAIN'S MAGIC 9 R Hodges 4-9-0	D O'Neill
5	(5) 530-6 CATALINAS DIAMOND 16 (H,T,C) Pat Murphy 9-8-11	S Drowne
6	(1) 34623 COMPTON PRINCE 9 (B,C) J M Bradley 8-8-11	R Winston
7	(6) 4400 BURAUQ 9 (B,CD) J M Bradley 5-8-10	H Crouch (3)
8	(6) 05040 SILVER SPRINGS 9 R Ingram 4-8-7	Rhain Ingram (7)
9	(8) 05003 LOUIS VEE 20 (B) John O'Shea 9-8-7	R Robinson (7)
10	(9) 60-06 ZOPHILY 9 (H,T) J Gask 4-8-7	K O'Neill

9-4 Compton Prince, 3-1 Captain Ryan, 5-1 Catalinas Diamond, 8-1 Louis Vee, 12-1 Buraui, Silver Wings, 14-1 Silver Springs, 16-1 others.

6.35 Maiden Stakes (£5,167: 5f 160y) (6)		
1	(2) 0/5 UNDER THE COVERS 21 R Harris 4-9-9	C Bishop
2	(1) 20- GLOORIJY 172 (H,BF) C Hills 3-9-4	C Shepherd (3)
3	(5) 6-354 JASHMA 9 R Hughes 3-9-4	R Tate
4	(4) 663-5 ZEBULON 11 R Hannan 3-9-4	P Dobbis
5	(3) 2 FAIR COP 13 A Balding 3-8-13	D Probert
6	(6) 322- GOLDEN EASTER 275 (BF) R Cowell 3-8-13	J Fortune

13-8 Fair Cop, 7-2 Golden Easter, Zebulon, 4-1 Glorlux, 14-1 others.

7.05 Handicap (£4,568: 1m) (7)		
1	(1) 6452- GANNICUS 1161 (T,P,CD) B Powell 6-9-7	Jenny Powell (5)
2	(6) 0365- HOT MUSTARD 205 (CD) W Muir 7-9-2	Josephine Gordon
3	(2) 66-45 LANGHAM 85 (H) M Appleby 4-9-2	R Dawson (7)
4	(3) 43-41 CALEDONIA LAIRD 23 (CD) J Hughes 6-9-0	I Goncalves
5	(7) 0530 MISTER MUSICMASTER 10 (CD) R Hodges 8-8-13	D Probert
6	(5) 04251 ALMANACK 10 M Pattinson 7-8-12	N Alison (3)
7	(4) 5031 ANDALUSITE 15 (V,D) J Gallagher 4-8-8	D Sweeney

7-4 Almanack, 4-1 Andalusite, 5-1 Caledonia Laird, 6-1 Hot Mustard, 8-1 others.

7.35 Handicap (£2,911: 1m 2f 37y) (8)		
1	(3) 62400 GOLD FLASH 16 H Frawley 5-9-10	K O'Neill
2	(1) 12625 RUSSIAN REWARD 6 (P,D) Mrs A Perrett 5-9-9	Doubtful
3	(5) 0336- EAST INDIA 201 (H,BF) G Baker 5-9-7	H Crouch (3)
4	(7) 0-336 BRIDGE OF SIGHS 6 (D) M Smith 5-9-7	Doubtful
5	(2) 204-4 GLENS WOBBLY 5 (C) J Geake 9-9-6	J Uys (7)
6	(8) 513-5 PACK IT IN 15 (CD,BF) B Meehan 4-9-5	J Fortune
7	(6) 0604- SAINT HELENA 1311 (B,C) M Gillard 9-8-13	J Fahy
8	(4) 23433 ATTAIN 6 (D) A Watson 8-8-10	E Greatrex (3)

2-1 Pack It In, 3-1 Glens Wobbly, 4-1 Attain, East India, 12-1 others.

8.05 Handicap (3-Y-O: £2,911: 1m 2f 37y) (7)		
1	(1) 10 MORI YOSHINARI 28 (BF) R Hannan 9-9	P Dobbis
2	(7) 451-2 CELESTATION 7 M Johnston 9-7	A Mullen
3	(4) 03-41 I'VEGOTTHEPOWER 9 (V,C) B Meehan 9-6	J Fortune
4	(6) 554- QULOOB 180 8 Burrows 9-3	D O'Neill
5	(2) 0034- EOLIAN 21 A Balding 8-9	D Probert
6	(5) 02-15 BEEPEECE 42 (C,BF) R Hughes 8-8	R Tate
7	(3) 4-000 SUBLIME 78 B Millman 8-2	K O'Neill

15-8 Celestation, 100-30 I'Vegotthepower, 9-2 Quloob, 13-2 others.

8.35 Handicap (£2,911: 5f 160y) (8)		
1	(8) 16423 THE BIG LAD 5 (B) R Hughes 5-10-1	Nicola Currie (7)
2	(6) 22103 FREDRICIA 2 (V) J Santos 6-10-1	Doubtful
3	(2) 0556- VINCENTTI 197 (H,D) R Harris 7-10-0	David Egan (7)
4	(4) 4601 CLASSIC PURSUIT 8 (B) M Appleby 6-9-9	R Ffrench
5	(3) 12300 POWERFUL DREAM 9 (P,C) R Harris 4-9-6	D Probert
6	(1) 4664 CHETAN 15 (T,P) C Wallis 5-9-5	W A Carson
7	(7) 51526 WENDENAB 5 (B,C) John O'Shea 9-9-3	R Robinson (7)
8	(5) 01/0- HARRISON STICKLE 373 (CD) J Gallagher 5-9-2	D Sweeney

7-2 Classic Pursuit, 9-2 Powerful Dream, 11-2 The Big Lad, 13-2 Wendenab, 7-1 Vincentti, 15-2 Chetan, 14-1 Harrison Stickle.

3	(4) 12250- REFLEKTOR 312 (D,BF,S) T Dascombe 4-9-0	R Kingscote 107
4	(5) 6021-3 SPRING LOADED 119 (F,G,S) P D'Arcy 5-8-13	J Haynes 104
5	(2) 000646 TAEXALI 16 (B,D,F) J P Shanahan (Ire) 4-8-11	S Hitchcott 105
6	(7) 000-21 MAJESTIC HERO 14 (D,F,G,S) J J Quinn 4-8-8	J P Spencer 108
7	(6) 20025- CONFSSIONAL 200 (E,CD,F,S) T Easterly 10-8-10	D Allan 108
8	(1) 0410-1 EL ASTRONAUTE 22 (C,D,F,G,S) J J Quinn 4-8-8	J Hart 107
9	(8) 0600-0 BLITHE SPIRIT 19 (C,D,F,G,S) E Alston 6-8-8	N Farley 102
10	(11) 1200-0 POWERALLIED 21 (CD,G,S) R Fahey 4-8-3	S De Sousa 94
11	(13) 2010-4 BOSSIPOP 23 (B,C,S) T Easterly 4-8-3	C Hardie 110
12	(10) 063060 BALLESTEROS 29 (C,D,F,G,S) R Fahey 8-8-3	P Hanagan 108
13	(9) 334204 SEAMSTER 4 (T,D,F,G,S) D Loughane 10-8-2	Hollie Doyle (3) 100

100-30 El Astronaute, 6-1 Majestic Hero, Reflektor, Sir Maximilian, 10-1 Spring Loaded, Taexali, 12-1 others.
Wright choice: El Astronaute put up a game display when successful at Newmarket and can defy a 2lb rise **Dangers:** Spring Loaded, Majestic Hero

3.35 188Bet Chester Cup Handicap ITV4

(£73,908: 2m 2f 140y) (17)		
1	(10) 42202- NAKEETA 193 (H,F,S) I Jardine 6-9-10	J P Spencer 102
2	(16) 0660-0 SUEGIO 25 (P,CD,G) R Fahey 8-9-9	A McNamara (3) 107
3	(13) 01303- FUN MAC 205 (T,F,G,S) H Morrison 6-9-9	J Crowley 105
4	(6) 1-3112 WATERSMEET 26 (F,G) M Johnston 6-9-8	F Norton 88
5	(17) 02-310 FIRST MOHICAN 26 (H,S) A King 9-9-7	Hollie Doyle (3) 106
6	(2) 53200- MONTALY 186 (G,S) A Balding 6-9-6	O Murphy 103
7	(18) 0143-5 MAGIC CIRCLE 25 (G,S) R Beckett 5-9-5	F M Berry 103
8	(14) 21253- SEA OF HEAVEN 214 (C,F,G,S) Sir M Prescott 5-9-4	L Morris 104
9	(15) 205/0- DUKE OF CLARENCE 371 (G,S) I Williams 8-9-4	James Doyle ♦108
10	(3) 3054-3 YORKKIDDING 11 (F,G) M Johnston 5-9-3	R Kingscote 104
11	(19) 00304- ANGEL GABRIAL 25 (F,S) R Fahey 8-9-3	P Hanagan 107
12	(12) /1551- GOLDEN SPEAR 221 (T,F,S) A Martin (Ire) 6-9-1	R L Moore 100
13	(9) 503/5- GOOD TRADITION 251 (S) D McCain 6-9-0	P Mullenran 92
14	(8) 00324- THE CASHEL MAN 214 (B,F,G) D Simcock 5-8-13	W Buick 105
15	(7) 3/135- WHO DARES WINS 561 (P,C,BF,F,G) A King 5-8-13	T Marquand 106
16	(11) 600-62 SIR CHAUVELIN 11 (F,G,S) J Goldie 5-8-13	Sam James 106
17	(1) 2116-1 BLAKENEY POINT 25 (P,C,F,G,S) R Charlton 4-8-12	K Shoemark (3) 99

7-1 Blakeney Point, Golden Spear, Sea Of Heaven, 8-1 Nakeeta, Who Dares Wins, 10-1 Watersmeet, 14-1 Magic Circle, Montaly, The Cashel Man, Yorkkidding, 16-1 First Mohican, Sir Chauvelin, 20-1 others.
Wright choice: Who Dares Wins has developed into a useful hurdler and looks well handicapped back on the level **Dangers:** Golden Spear, Magic Circle

4.05 Sporting Index Handicap (3-Y-O: £9,960: 1m 4f 63y) (8)		
1	(6) 541-1 STRADIVARIUS 21 (F) J Gosden 9-7	L Dettori ♦74
2	(8) 3221-3 WHIP NAE NAE 12 R Hannan 9-1	R L Moore 71
3	(5) 2-1 AL ZAMMAN 18 (T,D) S Crisford 9-1	J Crowley 68
4	(4) 036-1 JUKEBOX JIVE 35 (D) A Honeyball 9-0	J Egan 65

8.55 Auction Maiden Stakes

(£5,175: 1m 2f) (9)		
1	(2) 00 INCREDIBLE DREAM 84 D Ivory 4-10-0	J Duern (3)
2	(8) 0- ARCADIAN SEA 196 (H) W Jarvis 3-8-13	S De Sousa
3	(6) 0 BORTNOSIN 8 M Botti 3-8-13	G Wood (5)
4	(3) CLEARANCE M Tompkins 3-8-13	M Lane
5	(4) 5 GRIEG HALL 20 J Gosden 3-8-13	James Doyle
6	(7) 063-2 KASPERENKO 14 (BF) D Lanigan 3-8-13	T Queally
7	(1) 0- RED MASTER 11 E Dunlop 3-8-13	J Quinn
8	(9) TORONTO SOUND Sir M Prescott 3-8-13	L Morris
9	(5) 0 ZACK MAYO 22 P McBride 3-8-13	O Murphy

11-10 Grieg Hall, 5-2 Kasperenko, 7-1 Toronto Sound, 10-1 Zack Mayo, 16-1 Arcadian Sea, Red Master, 25-1 Bortnosin, Clearance, 33-1 Incredible Dream.

Kelso

Rob Wright		
2.15	Touch Of Steel	4.25 Deepsand
2.45	King's Wharf	4.55 Flash Garden
3.20	Pikarnia	5.25 Golden Jeffrey
3.55 Clues And Arrows		
Going: good (good to firm in places) Racing UK		

2.15 Selling Handicap Chase (£3,249: 2m 7f 96y) (14)		
1	5100- TOUCH OF STEEL 42 (C) J Ewart 8-11-12	Steven Fox (5)
2	P393- DONAPOLLO 147 (T,CD) Mrs R Dobbin 9-11-2	Mr D Delahunty (7)
3	3040- FRENCH SEVENTYFIVE 27 (B,D) Gillian Boanas 10-11-1	Miss E Todd (7)
4	4566- WHAT A GAME 21 (B) T Easterly 6-10-13	Mr W Easterly (7)
5	P03-0 MOSCOW MENACE 4 (T,B,C) Katie Scott 10-11-11	D R Fox
6	/F00- RHYTHM OF SOUND 62 M D Hammond 7-10-11	J Colliver
7	4502- CAPTAIN SHARPE 21 (B) K Johnson 9-10-10	Mr T Greatrex (7)
8	P600- LONGUEVILLE FLIER 15 (T,V,D) M D Hammond 8-10-9	H Brooke
9	5443- NELLY LA RUE 21 (P) V Thompson 10-10-6	T Dowson (5)
10	6900- LILLY'S LEGEND 15 (P,D) M Walford 7-10-6	J Hamilton (3)
11	P63P- TOP CAT DJ 95 (T,P) C Grant 9-10-2	B Hughes
12	/P65- TOREADOR 110 A Hamilton 10-10-0	L Murtugh (7)
13	6046- NOTONEBUTTWO 14 (P,C,D) K Johnson 10-10-0	C Bewley (3)
14	PP03- COOLANURE 17 (P) K Johnson 8-10-0	A Clarke (7)

7-12 Donapello, 11-2 Top Cat Dj, 8-1 French Seventyfive, Lilly's Legend, What A Game, 10-1 Captain Sharpe, Nelly La Rue, 12-1 others.

2.45 Handicap Chase (£7,148: 2m 1f) (6)		
1	5200- WITNESS IN COURT 34 D McCain 10-11-12	W Kennedy
2	0110- IFANDBUTWHYNOT 18 (T,D) T Easterly 11-11-12	B Hughes
3	236F- KING'S WHARF 101 (D) G Cromwell (Ire) 8-11-11	J Kennedy
4	6023- FULL SHIRT 13 (T,D) B Haslam 8-11-11	R McLaren
5	4195- AVIDITY 19 (P,D) J Ewart 8-11-7	Steven Fox (5)
6	33P1- OLIVER'S GOLD 23 (D) M Walford 9-11-5	Miss E Todd (7)

5-2 Ifandbutwhynot, 100-30 Witness In Court, 4-1 Oliver's Gold, 11-2 others.

3.20 Handicap Hurdle (£4,549: 2m 6f 151y) (8)

1	P154- REDKALANI 33 (B) Gillian Boanas 9-11-12	Miss E Todd (7)
2	P412- PIKARNIA 27 (T,BF) R Menzies 7-11-11	B Hughes
3	0364- MAGGIE BLUE 30 Mrs H Graham 9-11-11	T Dowson (5)
4	031P- PULPITARIAN 70 (V) Miss L Russell 9-11-9	D R Fox
5	4524- NOTNOW SEAMUS 27 Mrs M Fife 6-11-8	J McGrath
6	P2P1- BANKHALL 27 (P) M Walford 6-11-7	J Hamilton (3)
7	PP40- ZARU 53 (P,CD) J Ewart 11-11-6	Steven Fox (5)
8	0414- LOULOUILLIS 13 (T) M Barnes 7-10-8	D Irving (5)

9-4 Pikarnia, 4-1 Bankhall, 9-2 Maggie Blue, 7-1 Zaru, 8-1 Pulpitarian, 10-1 others.

3.55 Handicap Chase (£6,498: 3m 2f 39y) (9)

1	6203- SHARNEY SIKE 53 W S Coltherd 11-11-12	S Coltherd (5)
2	2P45- CLUES AND ARROWS 21 (P) R Menzies 9-11-10	B Hughes
3	4P34- ROUGH JUSTICE 13 (T,P) Alan Brown 9-11-4	G Lavery (7)
4	553U- DOUBLEDISDOUBLEDAT 30 (B,F) W S Coltherd 10-11-2	Mr T Hamilton (5)
5	0000- SCENIC STAR 6F (T) G Cromwell (Ire) 7-10-13	J Kennedy
6	0532- MO ROUGE 25 (P,C) J Stephen 9-10-12	C Nichol
7	523P- INCCHOLM 42 (B) M D Hammond 7-10-3	H Brooke
8	PP01- SGT BULL BERRY 17 (D) P Maddison 10-10-1	J Hamilton (3)
9	3333- HEART O ANNANDALE 14 (T,P,D) I Jardine 10-10-0	Ross Chapman (7)

4-1 Sgt Bull Berry, 5-1 Heart O Annandale, Incholm, 6-1 others.

Blinked first time: Bath 6.05 Louis Vee. Kelso 2.15 Longueville Flier. Newton Abbot 2.35 Wadswick Court, Turban.

5	(7) 0-3211 GLOBAL REVIVAL 21 (D,F,G) E Dunlop 8-9	S De Sousa 71
6	(1) 213 HERE AND NOW 28 (D) R Beckett 8-8	P Hanagan --
7	(3) 342-12 THE BLUES MASTER 21 (P,D,BF,F,S) M Johnston 8-8	P McDonald 72
8	(2) 55-51 TEDDORO 6 (F) T Dascombe 8-6	F Norton 72

11-8 Stradivarius, 4-1 Al Zaman, 8-1 Here And Now, 10-1 Global Revival, Jukebox Jive, Teodoro, Whip Nae Nae, 14-1 The Blues Master.
Wright choice: Stradivarius could not have been more impressive at Beverley and this longer trip should suit **Dangers:** Al Zaman, Whip Nae Nae

4.35 Deepbridge Capital Maiden Stakes (3-Y-O: £8,715: 1m 2f 70y) (10)

1	(9)	60-030	BAKER STREET 6 (P,BF) T Dascombe 9-5	B A Curtis	48
2	(4)	33	BRISTOL MISSILE 11 R Hannan 9-5	T Marquand	69
3	(8)	6-5	KATMANDOO 18 T Dascombe 9-5	R Kingscote	52
4	(1)	0-64	LEGATO 13 T Dascombe 9-5	F Norton	53
5	(6)	3-2	MUTABABBY 11 (BF) S bin Suroor 9-5	J Crowley	76
6	(3)	442-25	NEVER SURRENDER 14 C Hills 9-5	J P Spencer	75
7	(7)	0-	POETIC VOICE 301 (BF) E Alston 9-5	J Hart	30
8	(10)	46-	SOLAR CROSS 189 R Charlton 9-5	K Shoemark (3)	60
9	(2)	3	UNITE THE CLANS 10 J P Shanahan (Ire) 9-5	S Hittcock	60
10	(5)	0-2	MECCABAB 16 A Balding 9-5	W Buick	27

5-4 Mutababby, 7-2 Never Surrender, 9-2 Meccabab, 8-1 Bristol Missile, 10-1 Unite The Clans, 16-1 Others.

Wright choice: Meccabab failed by half a length at Kempton and, with this longer trip in her favour, can open her account. **Dangers:** Mutababby, Unite The Clans

Matthew Syed

Sports Commentator of the Year



Self-sacrifice of Ben Youngs gives glimpse of the true beauty of sport

A year or so ago, I visited Northampton Saints to spend a day with one of the nation's top rugby teams. I sat in the medical room from 7.30am, the strength and conditioning room from 10am and then, in the late morning, watched a training session as the squad worked on their lineouts and scrums, a chill wind sweeping in.

I also observed a team meeting. There was a lot of joshing, but there were serious moments too. When Dylan Hartley became captain, he introduced a special award that is given to the player of the week. This is not for the top player, but the person who has gone beyond the call of duty or demonstrated selflessness. "It is about acknowledging sacrifice," Hartley told me, "because that is a quality that underpins great teams."

The longer I stayed, the deeper my sense grew that this wasn't a group of disparate individuals who had joined the club to further their own ambitions. It seemed more like a group of individuals whose identities have somehow merged with the collective. "It is difficult to explain," Hartley said. "When you get to know a group of guys well, when you work together to achieve a shared goal, you almost become one."

This may sound a little twee, but the longer I have been involved in sport, the more I have come to understand this social dynamic. Harvey Thorneycroft, a former Saints player and now a close friend, once told me that the thing he missed most about rugby wasn't the training, or the matches, or even the roar of the crowd. It was the dressing room; the shared endeavour. "I can't describe it," he said. "That feeling of working as a group. I felt like a bigger person."

We often position sport as a classic expression of the Darwinian imperative. About individual ambition. About competing to be the top dog. Even in a team environment, we think of solitary egos competing to get into the starting line-up. And there is truth in all these claims. But there is something deeper at work too.

When I won team table tennis gold at the Commonwealth Games in 2002, I went back to my room that night and wept. The team had trained together for three months, had pretty much lived together at the training base at Nottingham. We had gone on exhaustion runs, encouraged one another to give everything, and spent evenings discussing what it would mean to reach our target. By the end, the bonds had become stronger than I imagined possible. That night, I felt pride not in what I had achieved, but in what we had achieved.

"You do not climb a mountain like Everest by trying to race ahead on your own, or by competing with your comrades," Tenzing Norgay said after his famous ascent with Sir Edmund Hillary. "You do it slowly and carefully, by unselfish teamwork. Certainly, I wanted to reach the top by myself; it was the one thing



Ben Youngs, left, has withdrawn from the Lions tour to be with his brother Tom, right, and his family

that I had dreamt of all my life. But if the lot fell to someone else, I would take it like a man, and not a cry-baby — for that is the mountain way."

These insights have been given fresh impetus by research showing that those who make sacrifices make more progress in the long run. In his seminal book *Give and Take*, the psychologist Adam Grant reveals that those who collaborate, who are willing to take a hit for the greater good, receive huge benefits by

building larger and more meaningful social networks, and through encouraging others to reciprocate.

In a study of medical students, it was found that those who were the most collaborative earned lower grades in the first year. But by the second year, they had caught up, and by the sixth year were way ahead. What had happened? As they advanced from independent classes into clinical rotations and patient care, the more their

success depended on teamwork and service, so they benefited from their natural inclination to work with other professionals and express concern to patients. The individualists were too isolated to profit from this co-operation.

I recently introduced my two children, Teddy and Evie, three and four respectively, to sport. They are playing tennis and swimming, but will soon start team sport. Part of the reason is that I am keen to sharpen their individual instincts. I want them to battle with heart, lose with dignity and win with grace. But my principal desire is to give them the chance to learn about the power of co-operation, of co-ordinating their actions, of making sacrifices.

And this brings me to the peg for this column: the beautiful piece by my colleague Mark Souster on Monday about two rugby-playing brothers. Ben Youngs, a fine scrum half, has withdrawn from the forthcoming Lions tour to New Zealand in support of Tom, an outstanding hooker, who recently received the news that Tiffany, his wife, is terminally ill with cancer. These two boys are rivals at a superficial level, but friends at the most important level.

"They have always been there for each other," Souster, who got to know the family well in his former job as rugby correspondent, wrote. "At the time of our first meeting, Ben was living as a house-mate of Tom Croft. There, Ben talked about his brother's role in his rise to the international stage and the gratitude he felt towards him. Both boys had been at Gresham's School in Norfolk. Tom, two and a half years older, had moved away to join Leicester Tigers, his father's former club. At 16 Ben followed. He was homesick and but for the comforting presence of his brother in Leicester, admitted that he would probably have returned home. Tom had been the perfect bigger brother and foil. Both have gone on to captain Leicester, with Tom at the helm this season."

I noted on Twitter that some had interpreted Ben's withdrawal from the Lions' tour as putting family before rugby. The point that I am hoping to make is that it was nothing of the sort. Ben was not repudiating rugby, but expressing the very values that this sport, at its best, seeks to teach. It was an act of sacrifice. Of giving. Of collaboration. It was an act that evoked the truth that family is the most powerful and precious team event of all, the one upon which our civilisation is constructed. "We are a very close family and, as I am sure everyone can respect, time is now precious together," Ben said. "The most important thing for me at this difficult time is to be able to offer as much support as I can to Tom and his family in the remaining time we all have together."

Sport is about selfishness, but it is also — particularly in team sports — about self-sacrifice. It is in this paradox, perhaps, that we glimpse its greatest beauty.

Flood excited to be 'coming home' to improved Newcastle

Owen Slot Chief Rugby Correspondent

Toby Flood, the former England fly half, will return to the Aviva Premiership next season to rejoin Newcastle Falcons, the club where he started his career.

Flood, who made his Falcons debut in 2005, left after four seasons and went to pursue a career with Leicester Tigers before moving to Toulouse in 2014. His

return to Newcastle is not only a story of an old boy looking to go back to his roots, but confirmation of the positive direction in which Newcastle are now heading. With the club having just completed a vastly improved season, Flood has become their tenth signing for next term.

"It didn't take long for me to make the decision," the 31-year-old said yesterday. "It really feels like I'm

coming home. If I'm honest, this is probably my last or my second-last contract, and you can't enter into it lightly.

"The improvements at the club are obvious to see and it was too exciting a proposition to turn down."

Meanwhile, Sean Maitland, the Saracens wing, will miss the European Champions Cup final and the rest of the season, having damaged ankle ligaments against Wasps last Saturday.

His place in Saturday's final against Clermont Auvergne at Murrayfield will probably be taken by Chris Wyles.

● Jamie Roberts has admitted that he was "as disappointed as any player" who missed out on selection for the New Zealand-bound Lions squad. But the Harlequins centre will still be heading to Auckland next month, having been appointed Wales captain for Tests against Tonga and Samoa.

Wales squad: Forwards: S Baldwin (Ospreys), J Ball (Scarlets), A Beard (Ospreys), K Dacey (Cardiff Blues), S Davies (Cardiff Blues), R Elias (Scarlets), R Evans (Scarlets), T Francis (Exeter Chiefs), O Griffiths (Newport Gwent Dragons), C Hill (Newport Gwent Dragons), E Jenkins (Cardiff Blues), W Jones (Scarlets), J King (Ospreys), S Lee (Scarlets), J Navidi (Cardiff Blues), N Smith (Ospreys), R Thornton (Ospreys), T Young (Wasps). Backs: C Allen (Cardiff Blues), G Anscombe (Cardiff Blues), A Cuthbert (Cardiff Blues), A Davies (Scarlets), G Davies (Scarlets), S Davies (Ospreys), S Evans (Scarlets), K Giles (Ospreys), T Morgan (Newport Gwent Dragons), J Roberts (Harlequins), O Williams (Leicester Tigers), R Williams (Cardiff Blues), S Williams (Scarlets), T Williams (Cardiff Blues).

England will avoid another World Cup pool of death

Alex Lowe

The 2019 World Cup draw takes place in Kyoto, Japan this morning. Even in the worst-case scenario it seems impossible that England will end up in a group anywhere near as deadly as the one that killed off their hopes of winning the 2015 tournament on home soil.

Four years ago, Debbie Jevans, chief executive of the organisers, drew England with Australia and Wales (as well as Fiji and Uruguay). Three of the world's leading nations knew that one of them would crash out before the quarter-finals. As history shows, it was to be the hosts; a new low. England had never before failed to advance from the pool stages of the World Cup.

But today they are the rising sons of world rugby, having won 17 out of 18 matches under Eddie Jones, a record-equalling run that has delivered them a grand slam and two Six Nations titles. That change in fortunes has lifted them to second in the rankings and a place in the top bracket for the draw with New Zealand, Australia and Ireland.

Awaiting them will be one of South Africa, France, Wales or Scotland from the second tier. The strongest potential opponents in the third tier are Argentina, who are ranked ninth in the world, above Georgia, Italy and Japan. There would be a romance to a team coached by Jones drawing Japan, the team he coached to victory over South Africa in Brighton — a result that effectively earned him the England job.

In yesterday's dress rehearsal, England were pooled with Scotland and Italy. Jones would take that. In fact, he was in typically bullish mood in Kyoto and insisted that he would take whatever the draw throws up.

"To win a World Cup you need to win seven games so it doesn't matter who you get, you need to prepare well," he said. "It doesn't affect the way you plan but it does mean you specialise the

preparation on what is the important game in the group."

What will be of greater concern to Jones is which group New Zealand end up in. It will be possible to plot today what England's route to the final could be — and when they would be likely to cross paths with the world champions.

Wales and Scotland, however, could draw the All Blacks in the pool stages. "The team you don't want to get is the All Blacks and then everyone else you wouldn't mind," Warren Gatland admitted before he flew out to attend the draw in his capacity as Wales coach.

Once the draw is known, England will be able to start making specific plans for the tournament. *The Times* reported last month that the RFU is

THE RUCK PODCAST

'Weak Scotland and Ireland are price worth paying for fair residency rules'
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exploring a warm-up fixture in Japan to help the players become acclimatised.

England are the only home nation without recent experience of Japan. Wales played there in 2013, Scotland toured there last summer and are planning to return for a pre-World Cup training camp. Ireland are playing two Tests on tour in Japan next month.

The draw will be preceded by a World Rugby council meeting, at which the governing body is expected to extend the residency qualification regulation from three to five years.

The proposal, which has the backing of the RFU, has already been passed by World Rugby's regulations and rugby committees. What needs to be ironed out is how the change in rule would be implemented. The most likely scenario appears to be a staggered introduction to avoid changing the regulations on any players who have already begun a three-year qualification period.



Mike Brown, of England, fends off David Pocock at the 2015 World Cup but Australia progressed from a daunting group

How the World Cup groups will be drawn

The 12 teams in bands one to three are in the draw courtesy of finishing in the top three of their pools at the 2015 Rugby World Cup. They are divided into bands on the basis of their world ranking, with the remaining sides determined through qualification tournaments.

Band One

New Zealand
 England
 Australia
 Ireland

Band four

Oceania 1
Americas 1
Europe 1
Africa 1

Band two

Scotland
 Wales
 South Africa
 France

Band five

Oceania 2, Americas 2, play-off winner (between Europe 2 and Oceania 3), repechage winner

Band three

Argentina
 Japan
 Georgia
 Italy

When and where is the draw

Today
Kyoto State Guest House

Draw live on World Rugby website and social media channels from 9am BST. Read verdict at midday on thetimes.co.uk/sport

Jones needs new skills coach after Teague takes job in France

Alex Lowe

Eddie Jones will need a new skills coach to take England through to the 2019 World Cup after it emerged yesterday that Rory Teague has resigned to take a job with Bordeaux Bègles.

Jones, who is in Japan for today's World Cup draw, appointed Teague to work full-time with the senior England team before the Six Nations, after he had impressed during a secondment last autumn.

Teague is an innovative young coach and he appeared to be the perfect fit for an England management team run by Jones, who had also recruited Dr Sherylle Calder to work on the players' hand-eye co-ordination. But Teague will leave the England set-up after the summer tour to Argentina to take up a three-year contract in France as backs

coach for the Top 14 club, where he will work alongside Joe Worsley, the former Wasps and England flanker, who is the defence coach.

Teague was highly regarded by the England squad and his impact on skills and decision-making was epitomised by the try that Elliot Daly scored to



snatch victory over Wales in the Six Nations in Cardiff. George Ford and Owen Farrell both threw inch-perfect passes on the move to release Daly down the left wing.

"Teague is about skills and he tests you under pressure," Danny Care, the England scrum half, said. "You see us playing with different balls and throwing bean bags around before the game for hand-eye co-ordination. For me specifically, we work at picking the right option at the line, passing and kicking."

Teague is an innovative coach and was well thought of by the England squad. He has signed a three-year deal with Bordeaux Bègles

Teague has had England players training with balls of different shapes, sizes and weights in order to sharpen their handling. The players train with netballs and footballs doused in soapy water; the back three players train to take up-and-unders with different types of balls, all of which fly differently and make it harder for the receiver to judge.

Teague, who coached Maro Itoje at Harrow School, helped England Under-20 to win the world title last summer and linked up with the senior team for the autumn series. *The Times* revealed in January that England had offered Teague a full-time role after he was approached by Northampton Saints to be their new attack coach.

Teague was a permanent appointment but still considered junior to Steve Borthwick, Paul Gustard and Neal

Hatley, the other England coaches. Jones would not allow him to speak publicly on behalf of the team.

Jones has overseen a high turnover of staff since taking charge in December 2015, most of it by design. He wants to keep elements of his coaching team fluid, to ensure that both he and his players are always challenged.

Glen Ella joined as a consultant backs coach on the tour of Australia last summer and he will reprise that role in Argentina. Jones usually runs the attack but will take charge of the forwards in the absence of Borthwick, who will be in New Zealand on Lions duty.

Jones will decide on how best to replace Teague when he returns from Japan and brings the majority of his touring squad together for a training camp in Brighton next week.

Sport

McIlroy is the \$300m man after latest deal

Golf

John Huggan

If all change is good, then Rory McIlroy has never been in better shape. The newly-married Northern Irishman, who this week competes in the Players Championship — his first event since finishing tied for seventh place in last month's Masters at Augusta National — will tee-up on the Sawgrass course with at least 13 new clubs in his bag.

Nine months after Nike exited the golf equipment market and after extensive testing of virtually every major brand, McIlroy has entered into a ten-year contract with TaylorMade that is, according to one insider, worth around \$100million (about £77million). The four-times major champion will also play with the company's new TP5x ball and will carry a TaylorMade staff bag. His apparel and footwear will remain Nike, with whom he recently signed another ten-year deal worth a reported \$200million.

"At Augusta, I alluded to the fact that I wasn't happy with the ball I was playing and I needed to do something," said McIlroy, who was using Callaway woods and irons before switching to TaylorMade fairway woods at the Masters. "I felt like I struggled in the wind. So I went back to the drawing board and tested extensively for ten days after the Masters. As soon as I saw what the ball could do, I thought 'wow, this is just what I need.' Over the next few days I tested a lot of different [club-ball] combinations and came to the conclusion that this was the best way forward for me to try to improve and win more majors. I'm excited."

Speaking of the Masters, McIlroy admitted to shedding a few tears in the

wake of Sergio Garcia's long-awaited and long-overdue maiden victory in a major championship.

"I rushed home to watch the final few holes on TV after I'd finished — I don't know what speed I was doing — but it was just such a great climax to the tournament," he said. "And I cried when Sergio won. For all that Justin [Rose] is a good friend of mine, after all that Sergio has been through in the majors, it was just such a special moment."

Garcia was a guest at the McIlroy nuptials, last month in Ireland, where the Spaniard had the chance to mend fences with former Open and US PGA champion Padraig Harrington. The pair famously fell out while contesting a four-hole play-off for the 2007 Open at Carnoustie and again during the final round of the 2008 US PGA at Oakland Hills — both won by the Irishman. But time has apparently healed those old wounds and, according to McIlroy, "they got on really well at the wedding".

"I've got a nice picture on my phone of the two of them sharing a hug that I was going to put on Twitter, but decided it was a personal thing between them," he continued. "And I've told Sergio I want to be a groomsman at his wedding. I don't know how hot it's going to be in Austin [Texas] in July, but it's going to be another memorable day in what has obviously been a fantastic year for Sergio."

It hasn't been so bad for McIlroy either, off the course at least. Calling his marriage to new wife Erica, "the best weekend of my life," he is clearly at peace with the world. "It was really cool," he said. "We tried to keep it as private as possible. It was for our families and friends and we didn't really want anything else. It was a weekend of



Mini McIlroy: The Northern Irishman is happy with his new clubs but seemed less impressed with this miniature version of himself

celebrations when we spent three really nice days with the people we cherish the most. It was special.

"With getting married and teaming up with TaylorMade, it seems like everything is really settled. There's not many question marks going on in my life right now. I feel like everything is where it is meant to be."

That includes himself. Almost. One last change is on the way for McIlroy. At the end of this year, he intends

to become a United States resident. "The other great thing about being married is I've finally got a home to go to," he said. "For the past few years I've only been able to spend 120 days in the States and 90 in the UK, so I've felt like a proper nomad. From now on I'm going to have a proper base, somewhere I can call home. It just makes you feel more centred, more settled, knowing you have somewhere to go back to anytime you feel like it."

missioner, yesterday announced that the FedEx, which was launched in 2007 and has been worth \$350million in prize money, will be a part of the Tour for at least another decade, and with even more prize money than before.

"This is a special day and a great statement about our players and our tour," said Monahan in this week's build-up to The Players Championship at Sawgrass, widely seen as the "fifth major". Moving the USPGA Championship to May would have the knock-on effect of the TPC at Sawgrass being played in March.

The PGA Tour season — currently 46 tournaments long — would be curtailed slightly, with the end-of-term Tour Championship being played in early September. On the upside, that would allow the tour to escape the competition for television viewers with the beginning of the NFL season.

There would also be implications for the European Tour. Joining that circuit late in the year would become a more viable proposition for the leading American players and represent a significant boost to the "Race to Dubai", which climaxes in mid-November.

Thomas moves into contention for Giro win

Cycling Geraint Thomas sprinted the final 100 metres yesterday to claim third place on stage four of the Giro d'Italia and the four bonus seconds that took the Team Sky rider into second place overall, six seconds behind Bob Jungels, the Luxembourgish from Quick-Step. Adam Yates, Thomas's British compatriot, is third in the standings for Orica-Scott.

Honours in the first mountain stage of the race, which finished at the top of Mount Etna, went to Jan Polanc, the Slovenian with UAE Team Emirates, who attacked 2km from the start and held his advantage for the remaining 179km.

"I felt good," Thomas said. "It is a good start, to be so close to pink [the leader's jersey]. OK it would have been nice to have got it, but so far so good."

Vincenzo Nibali's bid to defend his Giro crown was dented when Javier Moreno, his Bahrain-Merida team-mate, was thrown out of the race for violent conduct. Television images showed Moreno grabbing Diego Rosa, the Sky rider, by the back of the shirt and shouting at the Italian, which caused Rosa to crash. The 32-year-old Spaniard was charged with "acts of violence" and expelled.

Scare for Froome, News, page 19

Lions tours down under to return after 12 years

Rugby league The Great Britain team is to be revived in 2019, 12 years after the abandonment of the Lions (Christopher Irvine writes). This year's World Cup down under will be followed by a New Zealand tour to Europe next year, a Great Britain tour to the southern hemisphere in 2019 and an Australia tour to Europe in 2020, before the 2021 World Cup in this country. A new four-year cycle includes an emerging nations championship in 2018 and a dedicated mid-season international weekend.

"I'm sure supporters will welcome the re-introduction of Lions, Kangaroos and Kiwi tours in particular," Nigel Wood, the Rugby League International Federation chairman, said, "but the calendar provides new opportunities for all our members."

● Huddersfield stand off Danny Brough has been handed a two-match ban and a £300 fine after being found guilty of two incidents of dangerous play during his side's 26-21 Super League defeat at home to Castleford last Thursday.

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Plans to move USPGA forward

all four of golf's most prestigious individual prizes will be decided by mid-July. The switch is being discussed as the Tour seeks to boost further the profile of the lucrative FedEx Cup, its climactic four-tournament play-offs.

McIlroy said: "I can definitely see the reasons for it. We would have a big event every month. Then the FedEx run would be a little earlier and not clash with the [American] football. I can definitely see why that would happen."

Jay Monahan, the PGA Tour com-

How the calendar might look

March The Players Championship

April The Masters

May USPGA; BMW PGA

June US Open

July Open Championship

August FedEx Cup play-offs

September Ryder Cup/Presidents Cup (alternate years)

November DP World Tour Championship

Joshua wants grudge rematch with Whyte but may have to wait

Boxing

Ron Lewis Boxing Correspondent

Anthony Joshua has asked for a rematch with Dillian Whyte, although he is unlikely to face his old rival before next year at the earliest.

With a future clash against Tyson Fury depending on the result of a UK Anti-Doping hearing, Joshua, the IBF and WBA heavyweight champion, is understood to have named Whyte when asked by Eddie Hearn, his promoter, who his ideal opponent would be.

Whyte beat Joshua as an amateur and also rocked him before being knocked out in the seventh round of a British title fight in December 2015.

However, it seems certain that Joshua's next bout will be in the autumn in either a rematch with Wladimir Klitschko or against Kubrat Pulev, who is the IBF's mandatory contender.

Joshua and Whyte shared a heated build-up to their previous bout and the action in the ring was described by Joshua as "a street fight". Tempers boiled over at the end of the first round when a late punch by Joshua prompted a ring invasion.

A rematch with Whyte would probably spell more of the same, in contrast to the Klitschko bout which was notable for the respect and sportsmanship shown by both boxers.

Klitschko, who Joshua stopped in the 11th round at Wembley Stadium last

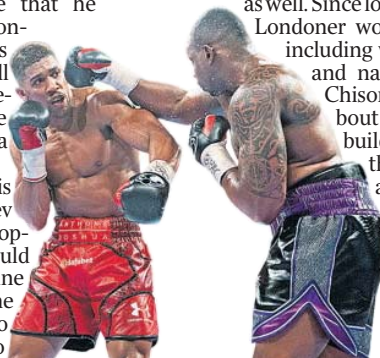
month, is understood to have said that he will take at least four weeks before deciding whether to invoke the rematch clause that he had in the contract. He has said that he will retire if he decides not to face Joshua for a second time.

However, it is likely that Pulev would be the option should Klitschko decline the rematch. The IBF looks set to order Joshua to

box the Bulgarian, whose only loss came against Klitschko in 2014.

Whyte looks on a different path now as well. Since losing to Joshua, the south Londoner won four bouts last year, including winning the British title and narrowly beating Dereck Chisora in December. That bout also had an ill-tempered build-up when Chisora threw a table at Whyte at a press conference.

Whyte is due to box Mariusz Wach, a 6ft 7in



Joshua, left, struggled against Whyte until he knocked him out

Pole and another Klitschko victim, at the O2 arena, London, on June 3. Victory in that could put Whyte in line for a world-title shot.

Whyte has shown interest in facing Joseph Parker, the WBO champion from New Zealand, but Parker is also a target for Deontay Wilder, the WBC champion, Tony Bellew, Hughie Fury and Alexander Povetkin.

Tyson and Hughie Fury attended the second day of their anti-doping hearing in London yesterday. Both face a charge related to an alleged positive test on samples given in February 2015, while Tyson, who has not boxed since beating Klitschko in November 2015, is also facing a charge in relation to refusing a test last year.

Oxlade-Chamberlain may be tempted by Liverpool

The prospect of working with Jürgen Klopp at Liverpool is an alluring option for Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain while he considers his future at Arsenal (Paul Joyce writes). Klopp is interested in bolstering his squad by recruiting Oxlade-Chamberlain this summer. Oxlade-Chamberlain has been told by Arsenal that talks on a new contract will not take place until later in the summer despite discussions with Alexis Sánchez and Mesut Özil, who also have a year remaining on their deals, having started. In addition, the 23-year-old has concerns about his

career development if Arsène Wenger remains in charge. Klopp likes the versatility of Oxlade-Chamberlain, although the player would want to hold down a regular midfield role in the event of a move. While Oxlade-Chamberlain considers his options, there are other obstacles, not least whether Arsenal would be willing to sell to a rival and what fee they would demand. Liverpool are likely to value him at £20 million.

HIGHLIGHTS
Watch the key moments from tonight's game thetimes.co.uk

Liverpool will only be able to press ahead with their preferred transfer plans if they can offer Champions League football, with Virgil van Dijk, the Southampton centre back, a first-choice defensive target. A reliance on Sadio Mané this season — they score more goals and concede fewer when the striker is on the pitch — means that they will look to add pace to the squad. Julian Brandt, the Bayer Leverkusen winger, fears a move to Anfield would result in seldom more than a regular place on the bench, while Mohamed Salah, the Roma winger, is again a target for Liverpool.



Arsenal are yet to talk to Oxlade-Chamberlain, right, about a new deal at the club

CONTINUED FROM BACK
Wenger wants transfer control to oversee changes on and off the field. Arsenal have considered appointing a technical director to help with recruitment and several people at clubs in Germany have been approached about their possible interest. Wenger dismissed the idea of the appointment while he was manager. “No, no, no,” he said. “Sorry, no. I’m not prepared to talk about that. I’m the manager of Arsenal Football Club and as long as I’m manager of Arsenal Football Club, I will decide what happens on the technical front. I don’t know what director of football means. Is it somebody who stands in the road and directs play right and left?” The apparent disagreement with Gazidis may have contributed to the delay in Wenger signing a two-year contract beyond the summer. Wenger said that he should have the final say on new players. “When it does not work here, I am blamed. Some coaches are only interested in managing the team. I am not like that and I cannot change myself now,” he added. “Progression or regression? Changes can go both ways. Maybe the time will come where the manager will not be a football specialist any more and that we have enough computers around him to analyse the game and straightaway he pushes the button and after the game, out comes the team for the next game.”

Possession remains the way forward, says Wenger

Gary Jacob
Arsène Wenger has said that he would not waver from his belief that dominating possession is the best way of winning silverware, even after two years of the Premier League being won — in all likelihood — by teams not afraid of letting their opponents have the ball. The Arsenal manager said that teams should always feel that they would be rewarded for their initiative and that top players always preferred to have the ball. Leicester City had 42 per cent of possession during their title triumph last season and only two sides had a lower percentage. Chelsea have had 54 per cent of the ball this season, the sixth highest in the league, compared with 56 per cent, the fifth highest, when they won the title in the 2014-15 season. From 2006-07 through to 2013-14, each season's champions were in the top four for most possession. “It raises questions as the last two seasons, teams who have not [had] big possession won the league,” Wenger said. “I still think a sport has to encourage initiative and if it rewards too much teams who don’t take initiative, then we have to rethink the whole process because people will not, forever, come to watch teams who do not want to take the initiative. “It is the responsibility of people who make the rules to encourage teams who want to play because that is what you want to see. “I am convinced you still need to have the ball to create goal chances and that overall I believe you cannot encourage youth teams to say we do not want the ball. You cannot buy big players and say, ‘We do not want the ball’. Big players want the ball.” Wenger said that possession was one of the topics discussed by leading managers when they met to analyse technical and tactical trends at Uefa last summer. The evidence of the Uefa club and national competitions

No prizes for keeping ball

PL 2016-17	Pos	Possession
Man City	4th	64.67%
Liverpool	3rd	61.57
Tottenham	2nd	60.3
Arsenal	6th	58.73
Man Utd	5th	57.28
Chelsea	1st	54.23
Southampton	10th	54.02
Everton	7th	51.57
Bournemouth	11th	51.01
Middlesbro	19th	47.6
West Ham	12th	46.85
Swansea	17th	46.85
Stoke	13th	46.65
Watford	15th	46.3
C Palace	16th	45.61
Hull	18th	44.92
Leicester	9th	41.77
Burnley	14th	39.37
Sunderland	20th	39.32
West Brom	8th	37.14

PL 2015-16	Pos	Possession
Man Utd	5th	58.46
Arsenal	2nd	58.27
Tottenham	3rd	57.29
Man City	4th	57.13
Liverpool	8th	56.97
Chelsea	10th	56.1
Swansea	12th	52.29
Everton	11th	51.79
Bournemouth	16th	51.06
Stoke City	9th	49.73
Southampton	6th	48.95
West Ham	7th	48.17
Newcastle	18th	46.17
Aston Villa	20th	45.76
C Palace	15th	45.37
Norwich	19th	45.22
Watford	13th	44.95
Leicester	1st	42.43
Sunderland	17th	40.6
West Brom	14th	39.43

the 2015-16 season suggested an era of pragmatism. Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich recorded an average of 67 per cent possession per match in Europe last season, but of the 2016 Champions League finalists, the winners Real Madrid averaged 54 per cent possession and their opponents Atletico Madrid 46 per cent. “I don’t know if it is a long-term trend,” Wenger said. “In Europe, we always analyse the Champions League and some seasons the team who had low possession won the Champions League. Over a longer period it is still the teams who have the most possession [that] win the Champions League.” Wenger admitted that his Arsenal team had been accused of having lots of possession and creating little, such as during the 3-1 defeat by West Bromwich Albion, and 3-0 defeat, also away, by Crystal Palace in the past two months. “That means on the day our balance was not right,” Wenger said. “We had possession but that had to be combined with being incisive and you have to be efficient defensively on set pieces. At West Brom, we got punished on set pieces.” He faces a different problem tonight against Southampton at St Mary's, where his side have lost in each of the past two league seasons. Before that, Arsenal drew on their past three visits. “They are always up for it against us,” Wenger said. “I don’t believe too much in this kind of history.” Arsenal will make a late decision on the inclusion of Laurent Koscielny, the defender, who has a calf problem.

Southampton (probable; 4-3-3): F Forster — Cédric, J Stephens, M Yoshida, R Bertrand — J Ward-Prowse, O Romeu, S Davis — D Tadic, M Gabbiadini, N Redmond.
Arsenal (probable; 3-4-2-1): P Cech — R Holding, L Koscielny, N Monreal — A Oxlade-Chamberlain, A Ramsey, G Xhaka, K Gibbs — M Özil, A Sánchez — D Welbeck.
Referee J Moss.
Kick-off 7.45pm.
Times smartphone app In-game highlights.

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How do you take a perfect

The Premier League's corner kings are West Brom and inswingers are their No1 weapon, says James Gheerbrant

In some ways, the first goal of this Premier League season was extraordinary: Adama Diomandé, Hull City's Norway striker, executing an acrobatic overhead kick that skimmed in off the underside of the crossbar.

In one respect, though, it was not so unusual: like 13.9 per cent of goals scored in the top flight this season, it came from a corner.

Despite this significant statistical importance, corners still enjoy a mixed reputation among fans. They are a byword for antediluvian tactical primitivism, when executed well; or for unforgivable slapdashery and lack of professionalism, when executed poorly. Sir Alex Ferguson once said that Charlie Adam's delivery from the corner quadrant was worth £10 million; but *The Numbers Game*, a 2013 book that attempted to apply Moneyball-style analytics to football, concluded that they were "next to worthless".

But in a league where the margins are so small (the difference between West Bromwich Albion in eighth and Hull

City in 18th is just over 0.3 points per game) and each goal is worth about £2 million, mastering a facet of the game that reliably delivers goals, however unsexy, can have enormous value.

Take (and you may not be shocked by this choice of example) West Brom. Tony Pulis's side are the Premier League's top scorers from corners this campaign, with 15 — 36.6 per cent of their goals (15 out of 41) having come from corners, and 10.1 per cent of their corners lead to a goal (both league highs).

The second-best side are West Ham United, who have scored 11 goals from corners, 24.4 per cent of their total, at a success rate of 6.7 per cent: more than double last year's values. For Slaven Bilic's team, whose move to the larger pitch of the London Stadium has made direct crosses from open play to their tall forwards more difficult, corners have become an increasingly crucial source of goals.

The bottom side in those metrics are high-flying Manchester City, who score from 1.5 per cent of their corners. If West Brom were as bad at corners as Manchester City, they would have scored twice from that set piece this season, and would have 13 fewer goals.

Conversely, if Manchester City could find a way to be as good at corners as West Brom, they would have scored 26 goals from corners this season, which is 22 more than they have managed. That

would give them the best goal difference in the league.

But despite their evident value, and the tangible excitement that they generate, few features of the game are more moaned about than corners. How can a self-respecting professional footballer fail to beat the first man? Why don't they just fizz it in under the crossbar like they used to? Why on earth would you not station a man on the post?

Let's deal with the first complaint first. In an attempt to unravel some of the misconceptions around corners, we watched all 135 goals from corners in the Premier League this season and plotted the points of first contact in the box.

As the heatmap above shows, a significant concentration of successful corners are delivered to the near post, which partly explains the apparent abundance of corners that don't beat the first man. The perfect near-post corner is the footballing equivalent of cricket's yorker: get it right and it's nigh-on undefendable; err fractionally and you look silly.

"A lot of people complain about hitting the first man, but it's that precision that's needed," says David Preece, the former Sunderland goalkeeper who now works as a goalkeeping coach and a columnist for the *Sunderland Echo*. "They want to get it maybe just a foot above the first man to make it really dangerous, so it's too high for him to cut out, and it's too low for a keeper to make

a claim unless you make an early decision to go and get the ball."

"If I was up against a 6ft 3in defender, very dominant in the far-post area, very hard to outjump, I'd want to get across him [into the near-post area]," explains Tony Cascarino, the former Marseilles striker and *Times* columnist. "If you can't outjump him and get a clear

header, you've got to try and get across the line of where he's defending and attack the ball." You will notice also that the successful deliveries are clustered around the six-yard line, in a sort of "corridor of uncertainty".

"What people want to do is to give themselves the optimum chance of scoring a goal," Preece explains.

"The six-yard box is not a long way for the goalkeeper to come — if you look at general crosses into the box, that would be an area that the goalkeeper would be looking to dominate — but the fact that there's that many bodies in the box makes it more difficult."

Successful deliveries closer to the goalline are much rarer; the delivery tight to the goalline to the back post is an endangered species — a consequence of the physical presence of goalkeepers and perhaps also the increasing protection that they are afforded in the modern game.

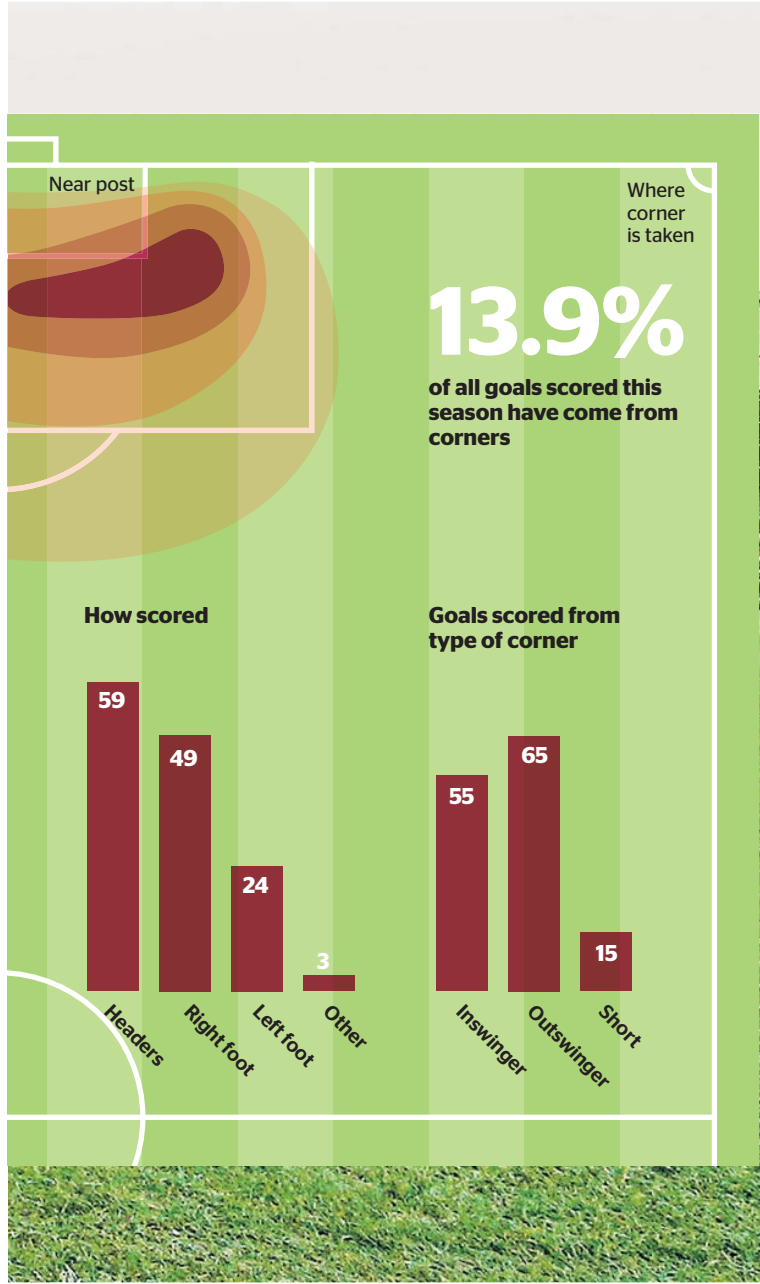
"As the game's evolved, any contact on the 'keeper can easily result in a decision being given against you," says Cascarino. "They do get an awful lot of protection. So you keep it away from the 'keeper, not because he can just catch it, but because more often than not, you'll get a decision go against you."

There are other factors to consider — among them whether to hit an outswinger or an inswinger. The data shows that slightly more goals this season have been scored from out-

City should learn from Pulis

Team	Corners	Goals from corners	% of corners leading to a goal
West Brom	149	15	10.1
West Ham	163	11	6.7
Everton	181	10	5.5
Hull City	170	9	5.3
Chelsea	191	10	5.2
Burnley	146	6	4.1
C Palace	194	8	4.1
Stoke City	171	7	4.1
Arsenal	195	7	3.6
Watford	149	5	3.4
Leicester	181	6	3.3
Swansea	185	6	3.2
Middlesbro	132	4	3.0
Soton	179	5	2.8
Liverpool	240	6	2.5
Tottenham	258	6	2.3
B'mouth	185	4	2.2
Sunderland	147	3	2.0
Man Utd	208	4	1.9
Man City	259	4	1.5

DEAN MOUTARPOULOS/GETTY IMAGES



corner?

swingers, but interestingly, West Brom, the Premier League's corner kings, strongly favour inswingers, which have yielded 12 of their 15 goals from corners. "An inswinger only needs minimal contact and you can get it on target and you'll probably score," says Cascarino. "I totally get why West Brom prefer inswingers because they get a lot of bodies in a very small area where if they make any connection, it's going to end up in the back of the net."

City, on the other hand, prefer outswingers, from which it is easier to retain possession but harder to get a telling contact. "As soon as you see somebody take an outswinger, you can relax a little, because you know the ball's swinging away from you," Preece says.

"There's less for you to focus on because most of the time in that situation you've only got to



focus on the second ball rather than having to deal with the cross itself."

And what about the million-dollar question: are pundits right to castigate teams for not putting men on the posts? "I think you're better off trying to stop it at source and having actual bodies out there than you are having them on the post," Preece says. Cascarino disagrees. "If they don't have men on the posts, you feel like anything on target in the corners, you'll score," he says.

Preece believes that teams should learn from Lincoln City, the FA Cup giantkillers who use American football-style "play calls" for set pieces, and that we should all shed our scorn for corners. "We become snobbish," he says. "Set pieces are always linked to the old dinosaur, 1980s, direct style of play. But over the years it's become an untapped source of goals." Not, though, at The Hawthorns.

Set-piece aces: Craig Dawson is a key threat for West Brom from corners

Brilliant Alves volley helps Juventus seal place in final

LUCA BRUNO/AP

Juventus <i>Mandzukic 33, Alves 45</i>	2
Monaco <i>Mbappé 69</i>	1

(Juventus win 4-1 on agg)

Champions League
Alan Smith

Let this be remembered as the semi-final of Dani Alves. While Juventus's defenders will be lauded for masterfully stifling the most exciting attack in Europe, the real hero as the Italian side continued their relentless march towards next month's final in Cardiff was their Brazilian veteran.

Having created both goals in the 2-0 first leg win last week, the 34-year-old set up Mario Mandzukic for Juventus's opener last night before taking a slice of glory for himself when converting a stunning volley before half-time to ensure the Serie A side reached their second final in three years.

"I'm happy," Massimiliano Allegri, the Juventus manager, said after a commanding victory. "But we have not won anything yet."

Chasing the game, Monaco were vulnerable to counterattacks and there was an air of inevitability long before Mandzukic put the tie beyond doubt.

The move started from the hands of Gianluigi Buffon and finished when Alves, who supplied Gonzalo Higuain



Alves celebrates after putting Juventus into an even more commanding position

twice last week, found Mandzukic from the right. The Croatian's initial headed attempt was saved by Danijel Subasic, but he calmly finished the rebound.

It was then Alves's turn to find the net, firing home a magnificent right-footed volley from 22 yards after Subasic could only half clear a corner.

Kylian Mbappé did tap in a consolation midway through the second half, but that was the first goal Juventus have conceded in 690 minutes of European football and the first from open play in the competition.

Whether it is Real Madrid, as appears almost certain thanks to their 3-0 win in the first leg, or Atletico they meet in the final on June 3, it will take some

effort to break down Allegri's team and deny them a first European title in 21 years. The Serie A leaders, however, will not be getting carried away. "We have to go to Cardiff and play the most beautiful match in Juve's history," the centre back Leonardo Bonucci said.

Juventus (3-4-2-1) G Buffon — A Barzagli (sub: M Benatia 85min), L Bonucci, G Chiellini — D Alves, M Pjanic, S Khedira (sub: C Marchisio 10), A Sandro — P Dybala (sub: J Cuadrado 54), M Mandzukic — G Higuain. **Substitutes not used** Neto, K Asamoah, S Lichtsteiner, T Kincón. **Booked** Bonucci, Mandzukic. **Monaco** (3-4-1-2) D Subasic — A Raggi, K Glik, Jemerson — D Sidibé, T Bakayoko (sub: V Germain 78), J Moutinho, B Mendy (sub: Fabinho 55) — B Silva (sub: T Lemar 69) — R Falcao, K Mbappé. **Substitutes not used** M De Sanctis, Jorge, G Carrillo, A Diallo. **Booked** Mendy, Falcao. **Referee** B Kuipers (Neth).

Allardyce: referees must protect Zaha

Ian Winrow

Sam Allardyce believes that the lack of protection given to Wilfried Zaha is hindering Crystal Palace's survival bid. The Palace manager claims that Zaha's ability makes him a target for opposition defenders and insists that the constant fouling of the winger too often gets overlooked by referees.

Zaha was once again the most-fouled player on the pitch in Saturday's 5-0 defeat away to Manchester City.

"I was told by the chairman [Steve Parish] it was happening before I got here [in December] and obviously you take it or leave it in terms of, 'I'll find out

for myself," Allardyce said. "But I've found it to be the same, and because he's such an outstandingly damaging player, he gets fouled more, and he actually gets fouled more than the rest of the team put together, most of the time."

"Often those fouls are ignored and they frustrate Wilfried, and then he loses control sometimes. For me, Wilfried needs more

The treatment of Zaha is hindering Palace's survival bid, their manager says



protection, so he can show his abilities more."

Palace have shortlisted Mamadou Sakho for their player of the season award — even though he has made only eight appearances for them.

The 27-year-old joined on loan from Liverpool in January and has helped Palace to win five times. Sakho could miss the rest of the season, however, after suffering a knee injury in a defeat by Tottenham Hotspur. Christian Benteke, Yohan Cabaye, Jason Puncheon, Andros Townsend and Zaha are the other contenders.

Redknapp set to sign up for Birmingham promotion push

Paul Joyce

Harry Redknapp is ready to sign a permanent deal at Birmingham City in the belief that he can guide them back into the Premier League.

Redknapp took charge of the club on a short-term agreement after Gianfranco Zola left three weeks ago. Redknapp, who was in charge for three matches, managed to stave off relegation with a final-day victory over Bristol City. The 70-year-old's enthusiasm has been piqued over the course of those matches and he has told friends that he will take the position full time.

Trillion Trophy Asia, the Hong Kong-based company that controls Birmingham, is prepared to bankroll a tilt at promotion and believes that Redknapp's experience will be crucial.

Previous discussions about a role had been held in London but Redknapp was at St Andrews yesterday for

face-to-face talks with representatives of the owners. Negotiations are thought to have centred around the exact role Redknapp would have and his transfer budget for next season.

Dale Stephens has signed a new four-year contract with newly promoted Brighton & Hove Albion. The midfielder, 27, was left frustrated last summer after being denied a move to the Premier League after a bid by Burnley.

But Stephens — who joined Albion three years ago from Charlton Athletic — will remain at the Amex Stadium.

Chris Hughton, Brighton's manager, said: "Dale has been brilliant ever since I arrived at the club. It was well documented last summer that he had a desire to play in the Premier League, which was understandable."

"But he put that to one side, has shown a great level of professionalism and was an integral part of the team which won promotion."

Mirallas agrees long-term deal to remain at Everton

Kevin Mirallas will become the latest Everton player to sign a new long-term contract (Paul Joyce writes). The Belgian, 29, will put pen to paper today, Bill Kenwright, the chairman, announced last night at the club's end of season awards. Tom Davies and Dominic Calvert-Lewin signed new five-year deals recently. Romelu Lukaku won the player of the year and players' player of the year awards. Sadio Mané was last night named Liverpool's player of season.

Spurs won't sell players to pay for ground, says Levy

Daniel Levy says that no Tottenham Hotspur player will be sold to help to fund the club's new stadium and warned the squad not to expect pay rises for success in challenging for the title for a second consecutive season. The chairman has been under pressure to improve the contracts of Kyle Walker and Toby Alderweireld, the defenders who have been tracked by Manchester City.

Figures show why Chelsea and City passed on Pogba

Oliver Kay

Chief Football Correspondent



Towards the end of last season, a senior figure at Manchester City mentioned that the club had gone cold on Paul Pogba. Why? "Because the figures are ridiculous," he said. "Seriously ridiculous."

This was City, the nouveau-riche club previously derided for knowing — or inflating — the price of everything but the value of nothing. Pogba was admired among the City hierarchy, not least by Pep Guardiola, but not at a purported world-record transfer fee and not with the wages and all the add-ons proposed by Mino Raiola, the player's agent. Manchester United were making the early running on Pogba and City were happy to leave them to it, convinced that ultimately the demands of Raiola and Juventus would leave their rivals frustrated.

Chelsea, another club previously synonymous with transfer-market excess, came to the same conclusion about Pogba, even though Antonio Conte, their incoming head coach, had enjoyed working with him at Juventus. Chelsea signed N'Golo Kanté for £30million; City signed Ilkay Gündogan for an initial £20million; Real Madrid had shown a strong interest, encouraged by Zinedine Zidane, their coach, but the Spanish club, hardly known for their restraint in the transfer market, decided that "Operation Pogba", as their favoured media outlets had excitedly called it, did not make sense.

And then there was one. United, their desire for more power and quality in central midfield more than matched by their desperation for another marquee signing to heighten their global commercial appeal, remained obsessed by "Operation Pogba". There were endless complications, not least over the ownership of his image rights, but, through it all, Ed Woodward, United's executive vice-chairman, insisted that the deal would be done. It would be more than a transfer. It would be a statement of intent, a deal that would send shockwaves through world football.

It did — and nine months later, the shockwaves are continuing with the allegation that Raiola, the Dutch-Italian agent, will earn (in the loosest sense of the words) £41million from the deal. According to Rafael Buschmann and Michael Wulzinger, the German journalists behind a new book called *Football Leaks: The Dirty Business of Football*, Raiola was entitled to £22.8million of the £89.3million fee that United paid Juventus for Pogba. It alleges that the agent is due £16million in additional payments — from whom, it is not clear — and a further additional £2.2million from Pogba.

Buschmann and Wulzinger say that they have seen the small print in the contracts. One only hopes that Pogba, having entrusted the one-time pizza



Ibrahimovic, another of Raiola's clients, also signed for United last summer

waiter Raiola to manage his business affairs, has done likewise.

Even by the standards of a game that has lost all sense of value — and in many cases values — these are obscene sums of money. Pogba is a high-class footballer, far more talented than his fitful form in United's colours this season may suggest, but every aspect of that deal was inflated beyond comprehension. It was inflated by Raiola's hold over Pogba and thus over Juventus and, ultimately, by United's eagerness, nay desperation, to pay sums that even Chelsea, City and Real felt were wildly excessive.

The "statement" aspect of the Pogba deal cannot be overstated. This is the way of it at the modern United, given how the club have changed since Sir Alex Ferguson retired and Woodward became the dominant figure within Old Trafford. These days their sales pitch to prospective signings tends to focus primarily on what the club can do for the player's commercial profile. And in an era when some players — or their agents — are inclined to put as much

focus on that as on their on-pitch prospects, it has, along with some mind-boggling wages, proved rather persuasive.

So too, though, did United's willingness to work with Raiola on the deal. In fact, Pogba was joined at Old Trafford last summer by another two Raiola clients: Zlatan Ibrahimovic (on a wage of £367,640 a week, according to *Football Leaks*) and Henrikh Mkhitaryan. Those three players had joined one of the great clubs in world football, but they had also, to a man, swapped Champions League football for a year slumming it in the Europa League. "You have to go to the club that needs you," Raiola explained to the *Financial Times* in October, when asked why Pogba had joined United, a team still in an uncomfortable state of transition, rather than Barcelona or Real, or indeed rather than staying at Juventus.

The Pogba deal has worked out wonderfully for Raiola. Has it worked for Pogba? Not yet, you would have to say. His form has been erratic in a team who are still struggling to establish a sense of identity and direction. He will hope to finish the season as a Europa League winner, as an EFL Cup winner, but it cannot have escaped his notice that Juventus reached another Champions League final last night, their second in three seasons.

United will still hope to qualify for next season's Champions League by winning the Europa League — they are 1-0 up from the first leg of their semi-final against Celta Vigo — and there is every reason to think that Pogba will perform better next term, with a restful summer behind him.

In some ways, though, that is not the issue. The issue is that his agent will be paid £41million from the deal. For all the attempts last August to portray it as an emotional, sentimental homecoming for a player who had been in United's youth team a few years earlier (only to leave, funnily enough, after Raiola infuriated the club with his wage demands), it is rather difficult to sugar-coat it when you realise what the agent, the driving force behind the deal, was getting out of it.



Raiola: The 'super-agent'

Romelu Lukaku



Lukaku was represented by Christophe Henrotay until March 2015 but

then switched to Raiola, who claimed that if he had been involved earlier in the Belgian's career then he would be with a bigger club than Everton. A month later Raiola started to link Lukaku with some rich clubs. Chelsea and Manchester United are favourites to sign the 23-year-old.

Henrikh Mkhitaryan



Mkhitaryan's £23million move from Shakhtar Donetsk to Borussia Dortmund four years

ago was negotiated by Raiola, who then put together a £35million deal last summer for the 28-year-old to sign for Manchester United, becoming the first Armenian player in the Premier League club. His agent ensured his salary — £200,000 per week — was triple his earnings in the Bundesliga.

Raiola's alleged £41m cut

Portion of £89million Pogba fee

£22.8m

Future payment from United (five instalments)

£16.39m

Extra payment (paid through Pogba)

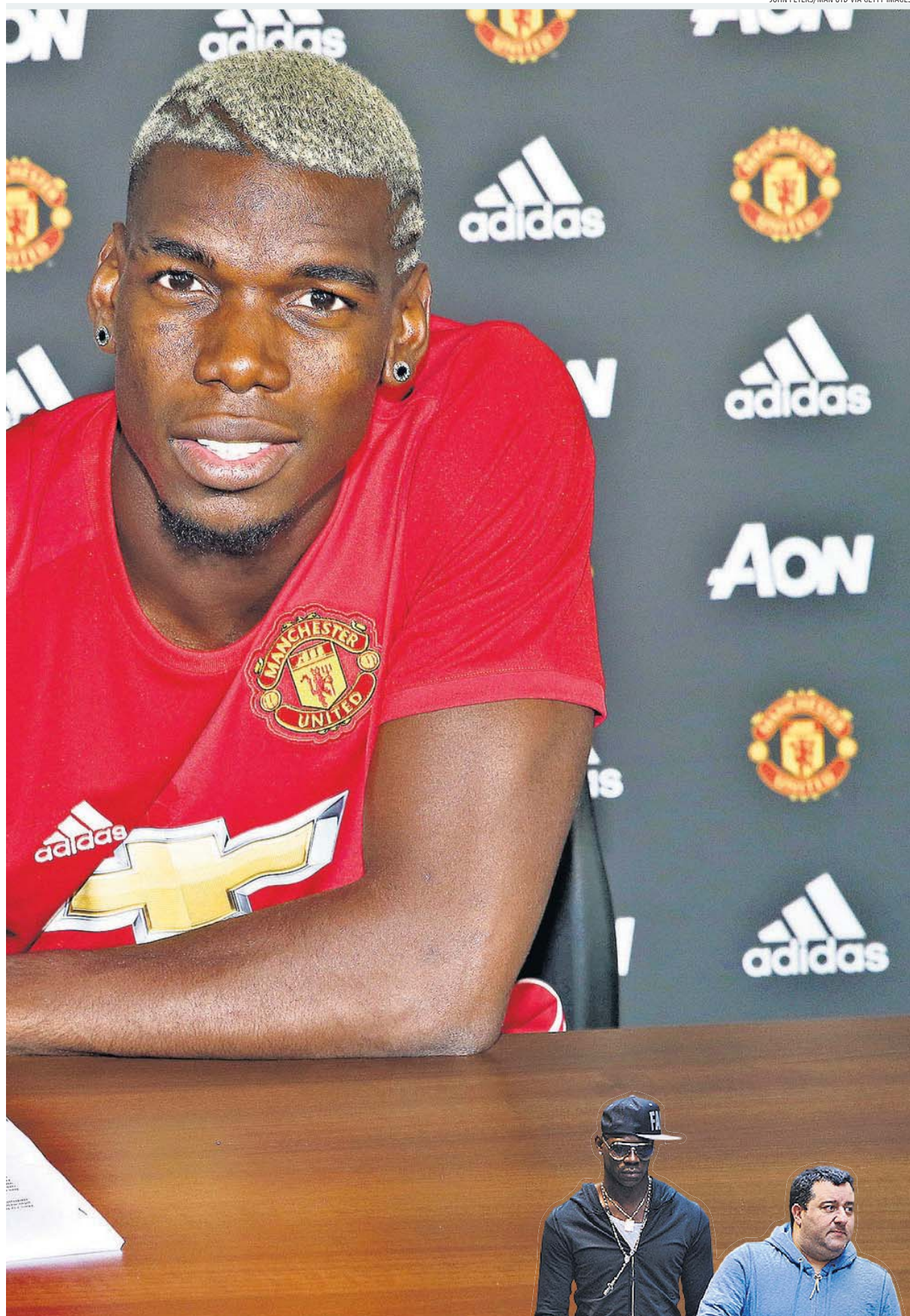
£2.2m

Total

£41.39m

*Figures according to *Football Leaks* book

JOHN PETERS/MAN UTD VIA GETTY IMAGES



Chelsea's £500,000 deal for 15-year-old

Michael Grant

Chelsea have agreed to sign a 15-year-old from Rangers in a deal worth £500,000.

Billy Gilmour had trained with the first team under Mark Warburton, when he was Rangers manager, and had been included in some squads for Scottish Premiership matches. Rangers said that they had received a "significant sum for a young player who has yet to play first-team football". The deal will also see the value of the transfer increased by future add-ons.

The central midfielder will join up with Chelsea once the deal goes through in the summer, with Gilmour turning 16 on June 11. He has impressed while playing for Rangers' under-20 side and Scotland Under-16 and had been tracked by Arsenal, Manchester United, Manchester City, Barcelona and Real Madrid. Chelsea, though, were the preferred choice of the player and his family.

Rangers were keen to keep the schoolboy but were resigned to losing him and accepted a deal once Gilmour and his family made clear their decision that he wanted to join the London club. A visit to Chelsea's Cobham training complex apparently made a deep impression.

Pedro Caixinha, the Rangers manager, had said that Gilmour would be given an early introduction to the team if he committed to the club and Malky Mackay, the SFA national performance director, had said that it would be better for his career if he stayed to

learn the game and make his first-team breakthrough at Ibrox.

The deal would pale into insignificance, though, if reports of Real Madrid agreeing to sign a 16-year-old Brazilian for £33million prove to be true. According to stories in Spain and Brazil, Vinicius Junior has had a medical after Real triggered a release clause in his contract with Flamengo. To comply with Fifa youth-transfer regulations, Vinicius's move will not be formalised until July 2018, when he turns 18.

Zinedine Zidane, the Real coach, refused to comment when asked about the possible signing before the Champions League semi-final, second leg, against Atletico Madrid tonight.

● Chelsea would receive the Premier League trophy in front of their fans when they play Sunderland in their final league match on Sunday, May 21, even if they are crowned champions by winning away to West Bromwich Albion on Friday. The west London club, who host Watford on Monday, need three more points to be sure of winning the title.

Chelsea will be given 40 medals to share out between players and staff. John Terry will receive one of them because he has made more than the required five league appearances. Additional medals may be presented only if more than 39 players make a league appearance.

Nathan Aké, the defender, and Asmir Begovic, the goalkeeper, each with one appearance, are set to miss out.



Gilmour has attracted interest from several top clubs

Fifa pair who removed Blatter are replaced

Fifa has voted to replace its chief ethics investigator and top judge in a move that the pair have claimed signals an end to the organisation's reform efforts.

Cornel Borbély, the Swiss investigator, and Hans-Joachim Eckert, the German judge, who have combined to ban numerous football officials including Sepp Blatter and Jérôme Valcke in recent years, will be removed after sweeping changes announced by the ruling council of world football's governing body last night.

They will be replaced by Maria Claudia Rojas, the Colombian prosecutor, and Vassilios Skouris, the Greek judge who was president of the European Court of Justice from 2003 to 2015.

Borbély and Eckert had said that they wished to continue their work and branded their departures as damaging to world football. A statement from the pair read: "Our impending removal at the Fifa Congress [which starts in Bahrain tomorrow] will greatly set back the work of the ethics commission and means the de facto end of Fifa's reform efforts. It must be assumed therefore that in the medium and long term the whole of world football will suffer because of this decision."

"The work of the credible and independent ethics committee was and

is an important part of the Fifa reforms, on which the trust of the public and Fifa stakeholders should have been rebuilt."

The statement added that a loss of confidence in Fifa's commitment to reform was "inevitable" and the "already-battered image" of world football's governing body would be tarnished yet further. "It seems the Fifa hierarchy has valued its own and political interests higher than the long-term interests of Fifa."

Eckert was the judge who opened proceedings against Blatter, the former Fifa president, and Michel Platini, the former Uefa president, in November 2015 after Fifa was engulfed by accusations of corruption. He also opened the case against Valcke, Blatter's former deputy, which ended with the once all-powerful French administrator also being banned from the game.

After yesterday's meeting, Fifa Council officials left tight-lipped, apart from one insider who said: "Congress members felt that Fifa and the ethics commission needed freshening up."

A Fifa statement read that candidates "will be presented for election en bloc to the Fifa Congress, each for a term of office of four years". The decision not to re-elect Borbély and Eckert comes at the end of their four-year terms.

and his key clients

by Alyson Rudd

Zlatan Ibrahimovic



Raiola claims that he was the first person to tell Ibrahimovic that he needed to apply more effort. He met the Swede when Ibrahimovic was playing for Ajax and engineered a move in 2004 to Juventus for £13million. Over the next eight years, with moves to Inter, Barcelona, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain, he became the world's most expensive player in aggregate terms.

Mario Balotelli

The agent secured Balotelli's £18million transfer from Inter Milan to Manchester City in August 2010, as well as further moves to AC Milan and Liverpool. Balotelli, pictured with Raiola, went on loan back to Milan in 2015 and returned to Anfield last summer only for Raiola to call Jürgen Klopp "a piece of sh*t" for making it clear that Balotelli had no place in the first team.



Jones' World Cup blow

Skills coach quits England role on eve of draw in Japan

Page 61



Fifa probes £41m cut for Pogba agent

United's world-record £89m deal under scrutiny

Paul Hirst

Fifa launched an investigation last night into the world-record transfer of Paul Pogba from Juventus to Manchester United.

World football's governing body is seeking clarification about who was involved in the £89.3million deal last summer and how much they were paid.

It is thought Fifa is concerned that an agreement between Mino Raiola, Pogba's agent, and Juventus over the transfer could breach third-party ownership rules. Raiola refused to comment when contacted by *The Times* last night about the Fifa investigation.

The news came the day after a German book *Football Leaks: The Dirty Business of Football*, which is due to be published tomorrow, claimed that Raiola pocketed £41.39million from the transfer of the midfielder, which was concluded last August.

The book, which is based on the research of Rafael Buschmann and Michael Wulzinger, journalists for *Der Spiegel*, divulges what it claims are details of the mammoth deals that United concluded with Raiola last summer and elements of the contracts of two of his clients, Pogba and Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The authors claim that United pay Ibrahimovic a weekly wage of £367,640, which amounts to about £19million per year. It is also claimed that the 35-year-old Swede is due £2.86million in goal bonuses after 28 goals this season.

Football Leaks claims that Ibrahimovic would have triggered a one-year

contract extension had he started four more league games and had United finished in the top three.

Ibrahimovic is out until the start of 2018 after rupturing his anterior and posterior cruciate knee ligaments during United's Europa League match against Anderlecht last month. It is understood that Ibrahimovic is unlikely to be given a contract extension although the club are happy to let the Swede be rehabilitated at their Carrington base.

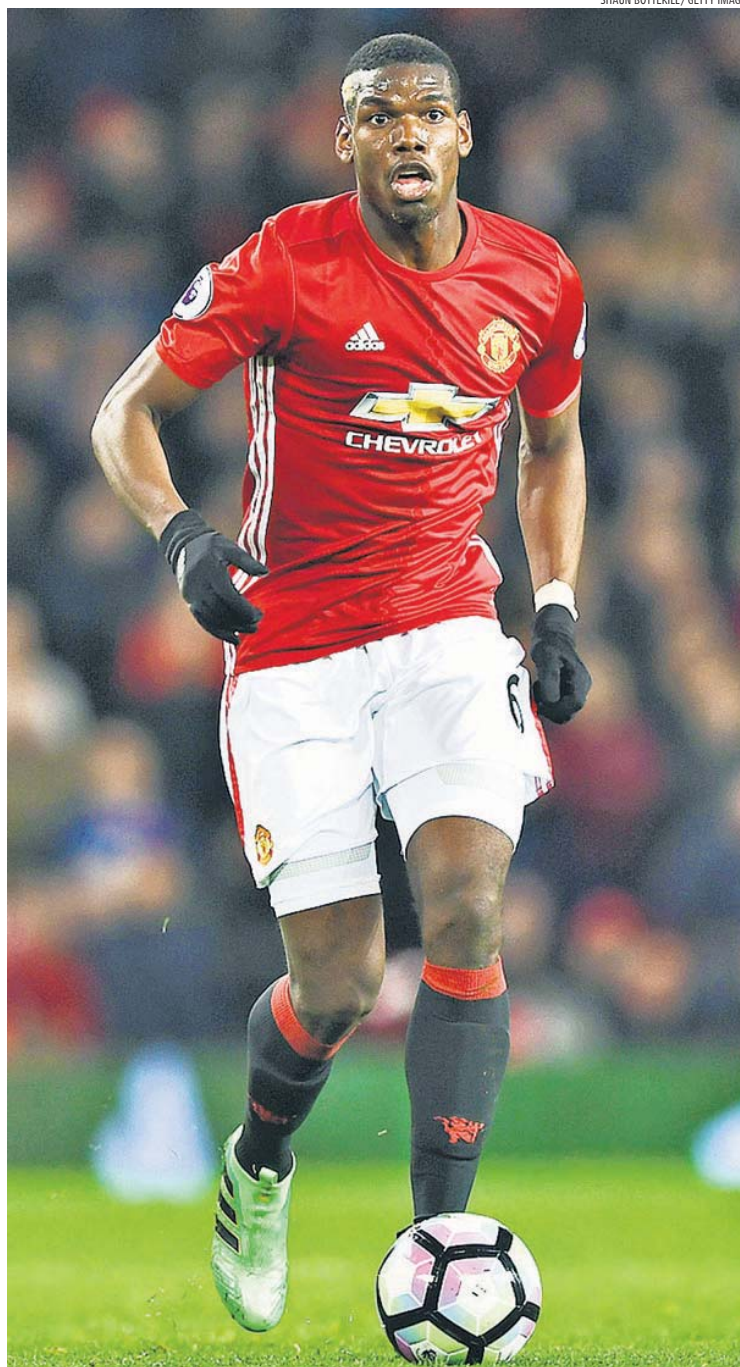
Football Leaks also claims that Pogba earns a salary of £8.61million, which equates to £165,588 per week, and will receive an annual loyalty bonus of more than £3.4million from next year.

Raiola is said to have earned a near-£23million portion of the Pogba fee and five instalments totalling £16.39million from United over the course of his contract. It is also said that United paid £2.2million owed by Pogba to Raiola's agency Uuniqq SARL.

When approached by *The Times*, a United spokesperson said: "We don't comment on contracts. Fifa have had the documents since the transfer in August." There is no suggestion that these payments are being investigated.

Raiola also acts as the agent for Henrikh Mkhitaryan, who completed his £26.3million transfer to United from Borussia Dortmund last July.

According to Football Leaks, Raiola had an agreement with Dortmund that he would receive a cut of the fee if Mkhitaryan was sold and he would also pocket a fee if he stayed at the club.



Pogba joined United from Juventus last summer after lengthy negotiations

Golf set for major move

John Huggan

The USPGA Championship may be moved forward three months to May as part of a radical shake-up of golf's calendar.

Officials at the PGA Tour, in conjunction with the PGA of America, are considering switching what is currently the last of the four majors to a date in late spring, positioning it after the Masters but before the US Open and the Open Championship.

The proposed change, which may take effect within two to three years, yesterday received the backing of Rory McIlroy, on a day when he announced an endorsement deal with club-maker TaylorMade, which will earn him \$100million (about £77million) over the next ten years.

If the US PGA does move, it will mean

Continued on page 62

Wenger's 'no' to Gazidis

Gary Jacob

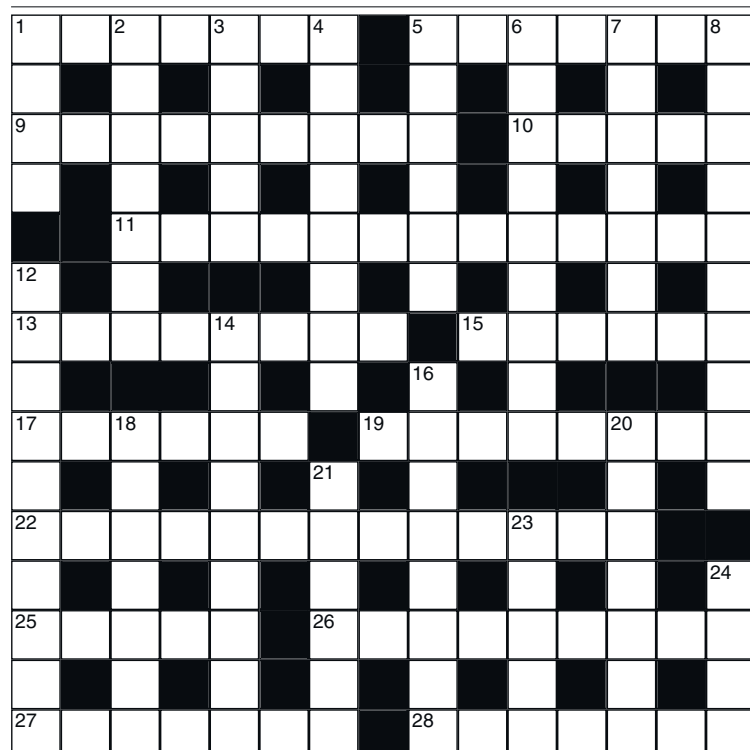
Arsène Wenger has said that he will never work with a sporting director, putting the Arsenal manager into potential conflict with the club's chief executive, who has insisted that there should be "change" after a disappointing season.

The Frenchman said that only he should make decisions on new players and that he would not be held accountable for someone else's signings.

The possibility of moving to a Continental-style transfer structure has surfaced after criticism of some of Arsenal's recruitment in recent transfer windows. Ivan Gazidis, the chief executive, told supporters at a fans' forum last month that if Wenger stayed beyond the summer, he would be expected

Continued on page 63

Times Crossword 26,721



ACROSS

- 1 In High Mass a participant inserted insulting language (7)
- 5 Son replaces hydrogen in car perhaps, causing blister (7)
- 9 Gorilla at bananas? It could be in zoo (9)
- 10 Squeeze money out of some miserable editor (5)
- 11 Pick ridiculous expression about cold method of dispatch (8,5)
- 13 Flood finished chap the Spanish abandoned (8)
- 15 Stick ambassador in the middle (6)
- 17 What, in time, controlled capital (6)
- 19 Give up gold points in panic (8)
- 22 Service chiefs (American) work with ruler and current procedure (5,8)
- 25 She would display initiative finally in revolution (5)
- 26 Change poles for stopping streetcar (9)
- 27 Last of experiments with canny bloodsucker (7)
- 28 Study large people's gravestones (7)

DOWN

- 1 Diver has drunk gallons (4)
- 2 Free, about to go on holiday, it's said (7)
- 3 A short bird hauled up deep plants (5)
- 4 In Paris, he has quit butchering for a change (8)
- 5 Marines board vessel to find pests (6)
- 6 Fatty uses cab travelling around Devon regularly (9)
- 7 Make boxes millions burn (7)
- 8 Winemaker's big blunder in Times (10)
- 12 Order in vessels, small, very deep (10)
- 14 Standard-bearer indicates runner in Cardiff (9)
- 16 Heath upended board to go ashore (8)
- 18 Emperor beginning to hate English pope (7)
- 20 Record one volume, for example (7)
- 21 A course of action ending in surly indifference (6)
- 23 Rocket launchers initially led by the nose (5)
- 24 Horse mushrooms, more than enough for birds (4)

Yesterday's solution 26,720



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PRODUCTION EDITOR Benjamin Chiou	DESIGN Samuele Motta Grant Chapman Kellie Jerrard
MANAGING EDITOR Peter Archer	

CONTRIBUTORS	
MARTIN BARROW Former health editor, news editor, foreign news editor and business news editor at <i>The Times</i> , he specialises in the NHS and social care.	DANNY BUCKLAND Award-winning health journalist, he writes for national newspapers and magazines, and blogs on health innovation and technology.
JOANNA GOODMAN Freelance journalist and author, she specialises in business and technology, and writes for <i>The Guardian</i> and <i>The Law Society Gazette</i> .	JOHN ILLMAN Award-winning author, he is a former national newspaper health editor and medical correspondent.
GONZALO VIÑA Formerly reporting at the <i>Financial Times</i> , <i>Bloomberg</i> , <i>Dow Jones</i> and <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> , he now works as a freelance journalist covering a wide range of policy areas.	

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OVERVIEW

UK life sciences can revive healthcare

As the NHS continues to creak under spending constraints and growing demand, the allied life sciences sector may provide some relief for the government and UK economy

DANNY BUCKLAND

The UK's economic reputation was forged by the industrial revolution two centuries distant and, given the uncertainty of Brexit, it is easy to lapse into laments about bygone glories. But questing minds and the relentless pursuit of solutions are propelling a fresh revolution that, although not wreathed in furnace steam and belching fumes, is delivering global success.

The life sciences sector, covering pharmaceutical and clinical innovation and pioneering technology, is providing sinew to the economy and hope for patients who want to enjoy their now longer life expectancy free from debilitating conditions.

The sector pumps £60 billion into the UK economy and supports around 420,000 jobs directly and in supply chains, according to government figures. It is unashamedly described as “one of the jewels in the crown” of the UK economy.

“We have four of the top six universities for clinical, pre-clinical and medical research, and three of the top ten medical schools in the world which is very impressive,” says Karen Taylor, research director of the Centre for Health Solutions with analysts Deloitte. “The combination of academia, life sciences and healthcare creates an energy, and is attractive to investment.

“The sector is showing resilience and investment gives the government confidence it can remain an important element of the economy.”

The investment figures have been charging upwards – the quoted value of the sector rose from £40 billion in 2015 to nearly £400 billion this year, according to figures from the London Stock Exchange in January – and Brexit has, so far, not put the brakes on.

Ms Taylor believes the seeds for current growth were sewn in David Cameron's Conservative administration and have continued to flourish with tax incentives, development strategies and catalyst funds.

“2017 is predicted as being another strong year,” she says. “The attraction of our universities will not diminish. A combination of an innovative and vibrant life sciences sector brings wealth to the country not just in terms of employment and investment, but also in improving the health of the nation.”

The government's appetite for life sciences seems unadulterated by



Tom Werner / Getty Images

Brexit as chancellor Philip Hammond's Autumn Statement, delivered five months after the landmark vote, featured a £2-billion provision for research and innovation which favoured life sciences.

The sector also received star billing in the *Great Repeal Bill: White Paper*, published last month, which outlines 12 negotiating objectives for exiting the European Union, including making the UK “one of the best places in the world for science and innovation”. Significantly, this goal comes with a “desire to continue to collaborate with Europe on scientific initiatives”.

The financial imperative of a strong life sciences strand to the economy is matched by the need to address the nation's future health needs, characterised by a creaking National Health Service in search

of £20 billion in service savings by 2020 and the population growth of over-65s who are more vulnerable to co-morbidities.

Population modelling is cloaked in dire warnings for the NHS as, by 2039, the over-65s are expected to represent 23 per cent of the population or 17.5 million people, according to the Office for National Statistics. About one in twelve of the population will be aged 80 or over by then.

More treatment needs for longer is not exactly bright mood music for an institution struggling to cope with its role of seeing one million patients every 36 hours.

But Sarah Haywood, chief executive of the influential MedCity UK, the political-private-academic collaboration that promotes life sciences in London and the South

East, says: “There are questions and challenges, but there is great positivity about the future. We also have a very entrepreneurial culture with lots of companies setting up with passion and ambition in healthcare.”

However, she cautions that access to the global talent, which is a prime element of the nation's academic and innovative attraction, needs to be carefully managed as the UK untangles itself from its EU connections.

Brexit is not the sole disruptive influence in life sciences as the big beasts of the pharmaceutical industry have seen return on innovation investment steadily drop from 10.1 per cent in 2001 to 3.7 per cent in 2016, according to research by Deloitte. Many are restructuring their business models as they grapple with tighter regulations and financial squeezes as well as shrinking profits, claim analysts PwC.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry has also warned that the biggest drug companies could abandon the UK if treatments continued to be rationed in a cash-strapped NHS. Its president Lisa Anson, who is also head of Astra Zeneca UK, called on the government to be ambitious to ensure the NHS had world-class status.

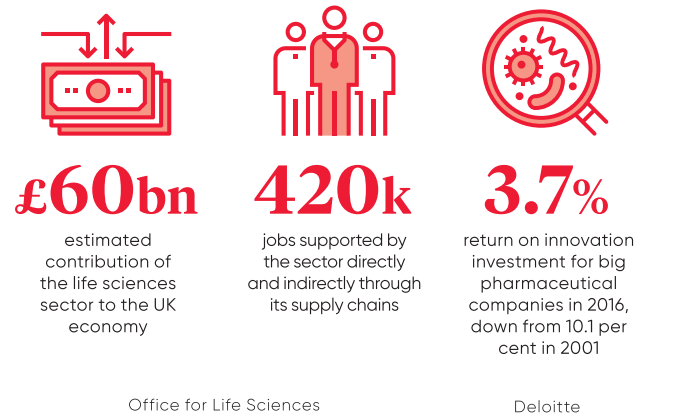
Huge advances in novel drugs and the promise of immunotherapy and gene therapy are causes for celebration, but these triumphs are stalked by the towering burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the financial constraints of healthcare systems.

The World Health Organization reported last month that NCDs, such as cardiovascular disease, cancers, respiratory diseases and diabetes, kill 32 million people worldwide annually.

The great hope is that devices, monitors and systems driven by artificial intelligence can energise diagnostic and preventative measures so the ruinous surge of NCDs can be arrested.

Public policy research centre the Rand Corporation recently published a paper on financial incentives for individuals and communities to promote better health, underscoring the view that exciting developments in healthcare will be handcuffed to some fundamental changes in how the public behaves.

The healthcare landscape is dynamic, and the big challenge is how society and government embrace innovation and remodel the future of health. ●



NHS AND DATA

Sharing data is a matter of digital trust

Used ethically, NHS patient data has the potential to improve healthcare and save lives

JOANNA GOODMAN

Instances of identifiable NHS patient information being shared without explicit consent have raised concerns about data access and privacy.

The Information Commissioner's Office and the National Data Guardian for Health and Care are investigating the transfer of five years' worth of patient data for 1.6 million people between the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and Google artificial intelligence (AI) subsidiary DeepMind Health. While the intent behind the data-sharing agreement was altruistic, a recent academic paper described it as controversial and inexcusable.

The paper, by Cambridge University academic Julia Powles and *New Scientist* journalist Hal Hodson, claims that the terms of the partnership are misleading. Although the data was used to create Streams, a smartphone app that helps clinicians manage acute kidney injury (AKI), the agreement allowed for broader collection of unrelated patient

data. Central to the agreement is the definition of "direct care" which carries "implied consent" to data-sharing.

Another key consideration is data value, in terms of bringing advances in healthcare that benefit individual patients and the wider community, and potential commercial benefits.

In this respect, the Royal Free deal is not unique. DeepMind Health is working with several NHS hospitals, including Imperial College, Moorfields and University College London Hospitals.

Nor is DeepMind the only technology company working with the NHS. IBM Watson is working with Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust and a further 90 companies are using or proposing to use AI to support diagnostics and patient care. All these projects involve private companies accessing and utilising patient data.

Research into public attitudes about health data shows that people are generally happy for their data to be used for research, but become uncomfortable if a commercial organisation is involved.

A survey by the Wellcome Trust and Ipsos MORI found people were largely unaware of how their health data is already being used, and that the greatest objections arose around the possibility of insurance and marketing companies accessing personal data.

And much of the concern about DeepMind's involvement with the NHS relates to its association with Google, notwithstanding DeepMind founder Mustafa Suleyman's assurances. "The data that we access from the NHS will never be connected or associated in any way whatsoever with any Google data," he told the *BMJ*.

These concerns were reflected in the recommendations by national data guardian Dame Fiona Caldicott, in a letter to the health secretary Jeremy Hunt, which included proposals for a new consent model for data-sharing in the NHS and social care. "There needs to be a much more extensive dialogue with the public about how their information will be used, and the benefits of data-sharing for their own care, for the health and social care system and for research," she wrote.

Last month, Wellcome launched Understanding Patient Data, an independent patient data taskforce and website, to provide information about how and why patient data is used.

The initiative is led by Nicola Perrin, head of policy at the Wellcome Trust. "New data-driven technologies have the potential to transform healthcare," she says. "The Royal Free's Streams app has alerted clinicians to 11 patients a day who were at risk of AKI and is saving nurses two hours a day. But the NHS will only be able to make the most of the opportunities new technologies offer to improve healthcare if the public has confidence in how data is used."

To maintain patients' trust, the NHS needs to ensure they under-

stand any use of their data beyond their own direct care. This also means establishing public confidence in partner organisations. "The DeepMind-Royal Free case is a reminder of how important it is to get the right governance frameworks in place when developing these partnerships, to ensure everyone can have confidence that data is being appropriately protected," adds Ms Perrin.

The AXA PPP Health Tech & You Awards was dominated by tools predicated on leveraging patient data. And there was a sharp focus on patient information and consent. Winner of the Health & Care Professional's Choice Award, uMotif, is a platform that captures patient-generated health data for NHS, academic and corporate research projects.



The NHS will only be able to make the most of the opportunities new technologies offer to improve healthcare if the public has confidence in how data is used

"Patients volunteer their data because they want to make a difference," says founder and chief executive Bruce Hellman. "They know their data is used only for ethically approved projects, and that they can choose which research to participate in and which data to share."

At DeepMind, Mr Suleyman is introducing the Verifiable Data Audit, a mechanism to enable partner hospitals to check in real time how their data is being processed.

Establishing trust means respecting the value and ownership of patient data, rather than its economic implications. Ms Perrin highlights "the economic value to UK plc" as a contributory factor to the spectacular failure of the NHS care.data initiative.

She says: "NHS Digital explicitly states that it does not charge for data. We need to have better conversations about the value of the data to the NHS, the role of companies and technology providers. Until the benefits are more clearly understood, there is probably a risk of damaging public confidence even further by talking about commercial value and patient data in the same breath."

There is general recognition that NHS patient data can be used to improve healthcare and save lives. The underlying issue is trust. We need to be able to trust our healthcare providers to use patient data in a way that benefits the population's health while respecting patient confidentiality and data privacy. ●



Google's AI subsidiary DeepMind Health was given access to five years' worth of patient data for 1.6 million people by the Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust



Partnering in the nation's health

The National Health Service is under growing pressure as the demand for new and effective treatments, services and solutions increases

The UK's population is ageing. Medical advances mean people are living longer. When the National Health Service was created, life expectancy was 13 years less than it is today. Vaccines now play a vital role in preventing death and disability. Heart attacks no longer take the lives of as many people. Even cancer is not the death sentence it once was. But this progress has come at a cost. People are living longer with a growing number of long-term chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and dementia. The



HUGO FRY
GENERAL MANAGER FOR THE UK, AND
GENERAL MANAGER OF SANOFI
PASTEUR FOR THE UK AND IRELAND

average 65 year old costs the NHS 2.5 times more than the average 30 year old. An 85 year old costs more than five times as much. The cost to the NHS therefore continues to rise.

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE NATION TODAY
"At Sanofi, we have deliberately established ourselves as a truly diversified healthcare company. We accompany people on their full healthcare journey from birth through to old age, contributing wherever we can make a difference," says Hugo Fry, general manager for the UK, and general manager of Sanofi Pasteur for the UK and Ireland.

"Through our five distinctive but complementary global business units, we support those living with chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, innovate in specialty care conditions including multiple sclerosis and rare diseases, prevent death and disability through vaccination, and empower millions to take charge of their own wellbeing with effective self-care solutions."

In complex, resource-constrained times, Sanofi supports the NHS in reaching their healthcare goals. We strive to add value on top of innovation to deliver effective and afford-

able prevention and treatment accompanied by the highest quality of value-added services and solutions. Sanofi tackles health challenges collaboratively in the UK. We work in partnership with the NHS. We have a number of joint-working projects up and running. Another eight are in development, all aimed at improving quality of care for people living with diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. We actively partner with patient and professional groups to support the prevention and treatment of diseases that significantly impact the wellbeing of the population and the UK healthcare system. We develop not only the treatments, but also the services and solutions that accompany them.

In multiple sclerosis, for example, we supply a personalised one-to-one support programme and home delivery that complements existing care provided by the NHS. We protect the health of the nation by working to increase vaccine coverage rates among at-risk populations through access to educational resources and tools such as vaccination reminders.

We are also committed to further enable self-care and reduce the burden on healthcare services. We provide access to sharps bins,

WE ACCOMPANY PEOPLE ON THEIR FULL HEALTHCARE JOURNEY FROM BIRTH THROUGH TO OLD AGE



demonstration materials, and online self-management tools to equip and empower people to manage their own condition effectively.

SHAPING TOMORROW'S HEALTH

Medicine is constantly evolving. Extraordinary advances have been made in fighting disease and extending life, but we need to innovate continually to bring effective life-enhancing medicines and devices to the UK. Sanofi is committed to sustaining our innovation in research and development, expanding our pipeline in leadership categories including diabetes and rare diseases, and rebuilding a competitive position in oncology. Our pipeline contains 43 pharmaceutical new molecular entities, excluding life-cycle management, and vaccine candidates in clinical development of which 12 are in phase III or have been submitted to the regulatory authorities for approval.

In the UK, we have more than 2,000 people involved in clinical trials, and worldwide Sanofi invests €5 billion every year, rising to €6 billion by 2020, to develop and identify new innovative treatments to meet the needs of people across the globe.

We view our scientific partnerships and the launch of new treatments as critical. We have therefore strengthened the efficiency of our industrial resources. Regardless of where our treatments are manufactured, our industrial network provides both healthcare professionals and patients with the highest quality and maximum safety.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Our dedication to make a real difference to the lives of people every day is fundamental to how we operate our business. In 2015, we had 280 corporate social responsibility initiatives, benefiting more than 300 million people worldwide. We contribute to initiatives with groups such as the World Health Organization, and organisations supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation. In the UK and Ireland, we have multiple corporate charity partnerships to provide a platform to drive positive change in communities.

We commit to diversity, inclusion and professional development of our employees. We see this as fundamental to delivering the best for the people whose lives we touch. Efforts around talent management and retention have been recognised by Investors in People and the UK is rated a top employer by the Top Employer Institute for providing exceptional conditions for employees and developing talent.

Mr Fry concludes: "Sanofi is a partner in improving the nation's health. We are dedicated to empowering people to live life to the fullest and engaging with our healthcare stakeholders to deliver real value beyond our medicines."

For more information please visit www.sanofi.co.uk

ABOUT US

Sanofi is a global healthcare leader committed to the discovery, development and distribution of therapeutic solutions focused on the needs of the people we treat. Improving access to healthcare and providing the best support to you through a full continuum of care – from prevention to treatment – guide our actions day by day. In the context of a changing world, we are all facing

greater health challenges. We strive to transform scientific innovations into therapeutic solutions that make a difference to your daily life wherever you live and enable you to enjoy a healthier life. Sanofi is organised into five global business units: Diabetes and Cardiovascular, General Medicines and Emerging Markets, Sanofi Genzyme, Sanofi Pasteur and Consumer Healthcare.

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DRUG PRICING AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION

What is the true price of good health?

With notable examples of price hikes, there is a public perception that drug companies attempt to rip off the NHS

DANNY BUCKLAND

Survival rates for cancer have doubled over the last 40 years and there are enough bright, "golden ages" of medical advances to blind even the most sceptical.

Molecular mechanisms that baffled and confounded for a generation are now being picked apart by genetic code-crackers with regular success while "breakthroughs" have almost acquired cliché status.

There is great promise from generics and biosimilars, copies of standard and biologic pharmaceuticals, which lower costs of treatment regimes across a spectrum of conditions. Every day we take a step closer to personalised medicine where therapies can be tailored to individuals.

But, despite these triumphs, there is a perception that pharmaceutical salvation is being charged at too high a price.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), the government agency that evaluates drugs for use in the National Health Service, has rejected treatments for breast and lung cancer, multiple myeloma, multiple sclerosis and pancreatic cancer over the last year alone on cost grounds.

NICE applies a strict formula that calibrates the number of good health quality years gained against price when judging if a drug should be made available on the NHS. Its litany of refusals sparks outrage from charities and patient populations, but it also lasers attention on to pharmaceutical company balance sheets.

They are an easy target and US President Donald Trump used the first press conference of his administration in January to promise that drug prices would be slashed to save millions of dollars. In a further blow to pharma, approved drugs can now be stalled for up to three years if the NHS deems them too expensive, costing more than £20 million in the

first three years, potentially forcing companies to abandon the UK as a market.

The atmosphere is further darkened by the government's consumer watchdog, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), investigating huge price hikes in some drugs.

It issued a record £90-million fine against drug giants Pfizer and distributors Flynn Pharma for allegedly charging excessive prices to the NHS for the anti-epilepsy drug phenytoin, the price of which rocketed from £2.83 for a 100mg pack to £67.50 after it was debranded. GSK picked up a £44.9 million fine for allegedly manipulating the market to minimise the impact of generic copies on its £90-million-a-year blockbuster anti-depressant Seroxat. Both cases are being appealed.



There is a perception that pharmaceutical salvation is being charged at too high a price

The Department of Health is promoting a new Bill enhancing government powers to act on excessive price hikes on unbranded drugs. A spokesman says: "No pharmaceutical company should exploit the NHS. We are working closely with the CMA on unwarranted price rises of unbranded generic medicines and, where companies have breached competition law, we will seek damages and invest that money in the NHS."

This legislation is trained, principally, on the generic and biosimilars market where rival companies create copies of branded medicines and start selling them when the original patent expires, usually after 20 years.

The practice relies on competing firms and hard-bargaining high street pharmacies to keep prices down. The British Generic Manufacturers Association (BGMA), which represents 90 per cent of companies that produce one billion prescription items annually, believes the competition has seen some named drug costs drop by up to 95 per cent and a notional £13 billion saving for the NHS on branded drugs.

"There is a benefit in saving money in itself, but this competition also increases access to medicines," says Warwick Smith, BGMA director. "There was a study when the statin Simvastatin came off patent which showed that the price dropped by 95 per cent with the introduction of generics while the use of all statins increased. The result was more people were being treated for a lower overall cost."

Generics and biosimilars suppliers have freedom of pricing on most drugs, but the government can step in to stabilise the market in some cases and these powers will strengthen with the new legislation.

"The system works well with the pharmacists as effectively the government's gatekeeper, but if the price goes down too much the manufacturer will not sell. It is a flexible supply-and-demand system that drives low prices," says Mr Smith. "Data shows we are in the top three countries in Europe for low prices, with average charges in Europe around 3.5 times more than the UK."

"But we need a mechanism for drugs where there are no competing suppliers. We would never defend putting the price up for no good reason. We exist to drive access for patients, but we are commercial companies and we need a return and prices at a sustainable level that will allow us to keep putting these products into the market."

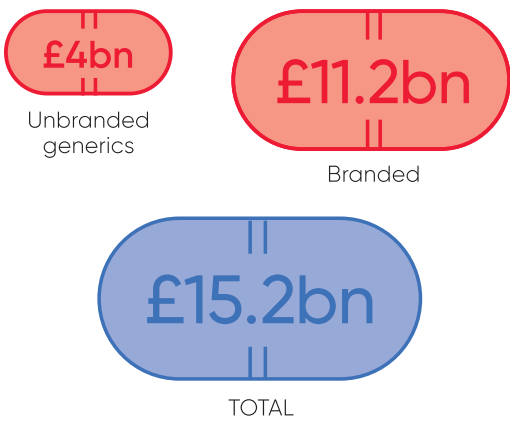
It is easy to be seduced into thinking that the stratospheric returns for some blockbuster drugs – the top three generated \$18 billion sales in 2016 – means pharma companies are drowning in prof-





Spencer Platt/Getty Images

NHS ENGLAND'S SPENDING ON MEDICINES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015 TO 2016



Department of Health 2016

“We have an adversarial set-up which is actually driving up costs and not serving the public well

“The British public are being done a disservice as we are no longer able to have access to top-quality life-extending drugs because of the parameters applied by NICE,” he says.

The nation’s reputation as a medical powerhouse is being eroded and important clinical trials are being lost to other countries as patients in the UK are not on gold-standard treatments which are needed for trials for newer, even better drugs, he claims.

“We are losing ground and are no longer approving drugs in the NHS so when global pharma companies launch new drugs, the UK does not come into the dictionary,” Mr Arlington concludes, calling for greater collaboration between industry, government and regulators. “At the moment, we have an adversarial set-up which is actually driving up costs and not serving the public well.” ●

do you expect from healthcare of the future?”

David Watson, the ABPI’s director of pricing and the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, the voluntary arrangement aimed at ensuring fair prices and a safe and effective drug supply, says: “Industry struggles to communicate the value of medicines. There are some new medicines that are very expensive, but they end up being used in a small patient population with complex conditions, while you have widely used medicines that were expensive 20 years ago but are now much cheaper.

“The bigger picture is that we are at risk of demonising the price of medicines. The UK spends relatively little on healthcare compared to some countries and, within that, a bit less than some other countries on medicines. We are not massively generous. It was recently said that we spend more on gin in the UK than we spend on cancer drugs.”

Steve Arlington, director of the Pistoia Alliance, a global, not-for-profit organisation of life science companies, technology and service providers, publishers, and academic groups, believes drug-pricing strategy in the UK needs radical restructuring.

its, but for every successful drug there is a \$1-billion bill and nine out of ten drugs fail to make it to market. “Society almost banks medical successes and treats them like they’ve always been there,” says Dr Virginia Acha, executive director of research, medical and innovation at the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), which represents companies that supply more than 80 per cent of all medicines used by the NHS.

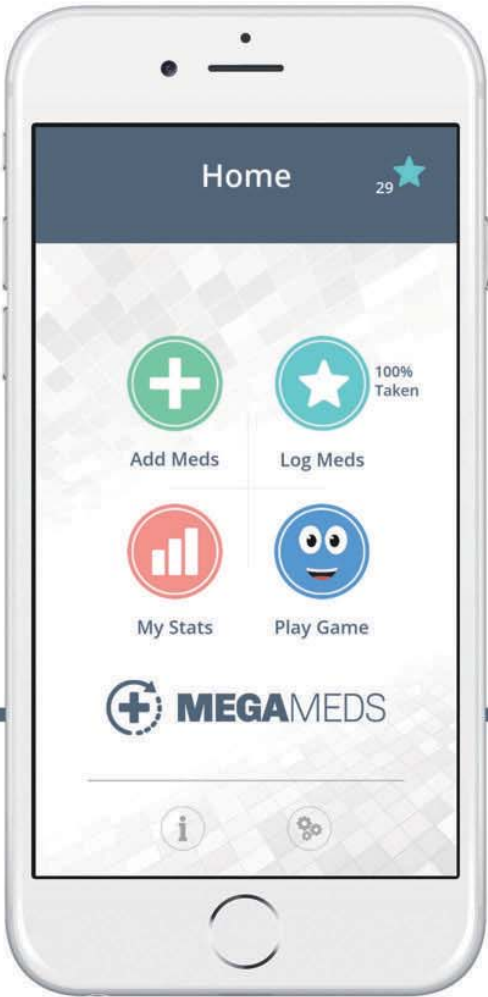
“My father had polio as a child; how many people now have childhood polio? My son is 20 and has no memory of anyone having mumps. Over time, these innovations become part of normal health and the bar continues to be raised. The bigger question for society is what

Pfizer and Flynn Pharma were fined £90 million collectively for allegedly charging the NHS excessive prices for phenytoin

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PRESCRIPTION DRUGS OUTLOOK

Worldwide sales of prescription drugs are set for strong growth over the next half-decade and most of this growth will be driven by the prospects for a raft of new products coming on the market. However, strong competition from generics, the loss of sales following patent expiration and the constant uncertainty over drug approvals puts these forecasts at risk

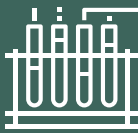
GLOBAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG SALES (\$BN)

- Prescriptions excluding generics and orphans
- Generics
- Orphan drugs targeted at rare diseases



6.3%

estimated compound annual growth in global prescription drug sales between 2016 and 2022



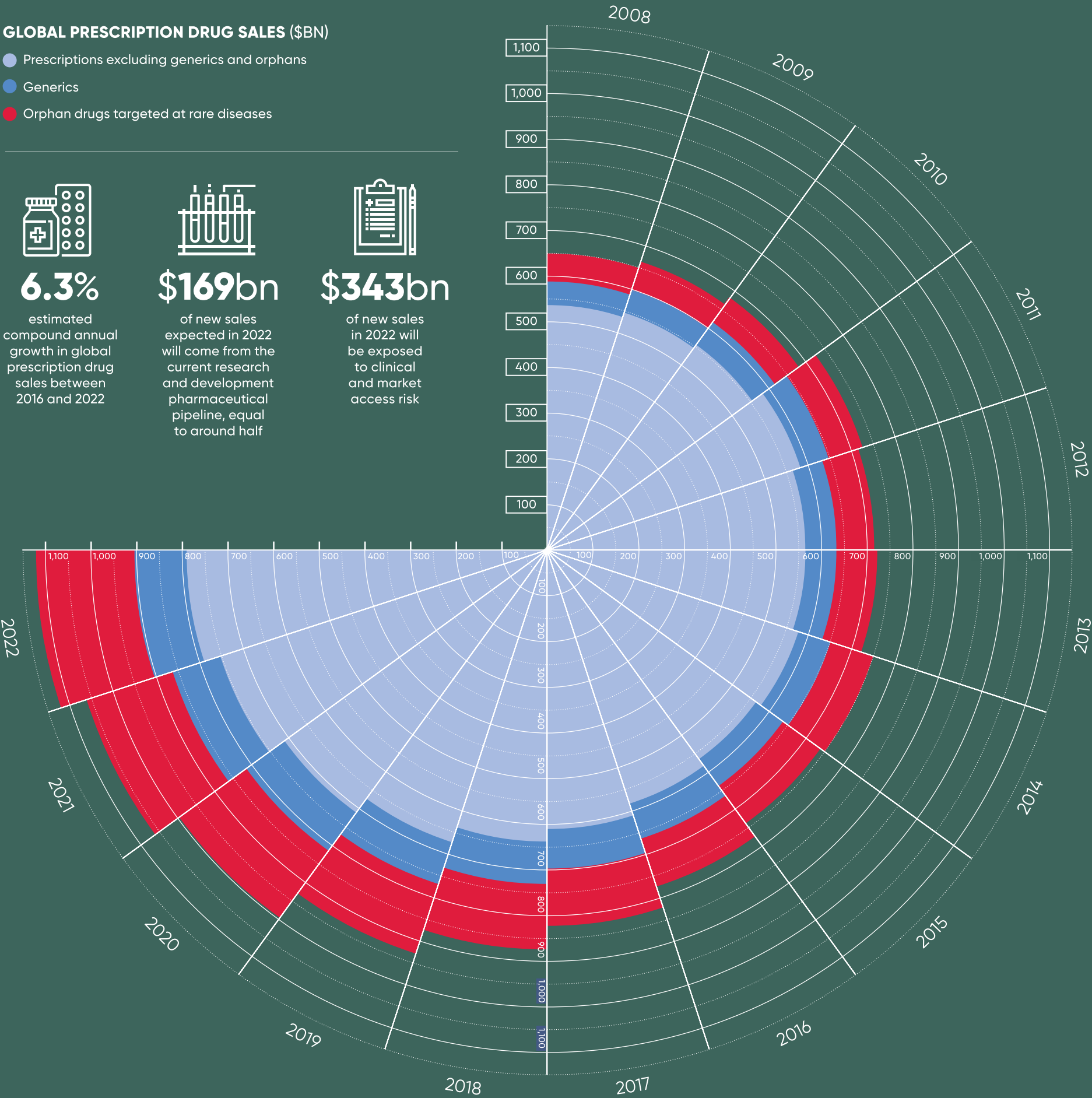
\$169bn

of new sales expected in 2022 will come from the current research and development pharmaceutical pipeline, equal to around half



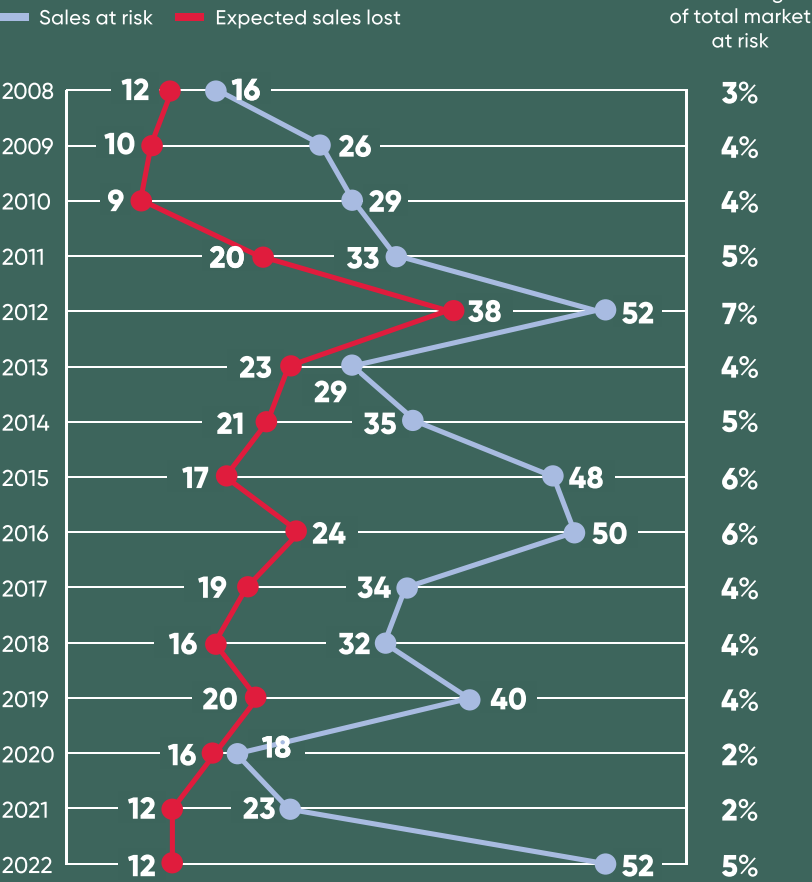
\$343bn

of new sales in 2022 will be exposed to clinical and market access risk



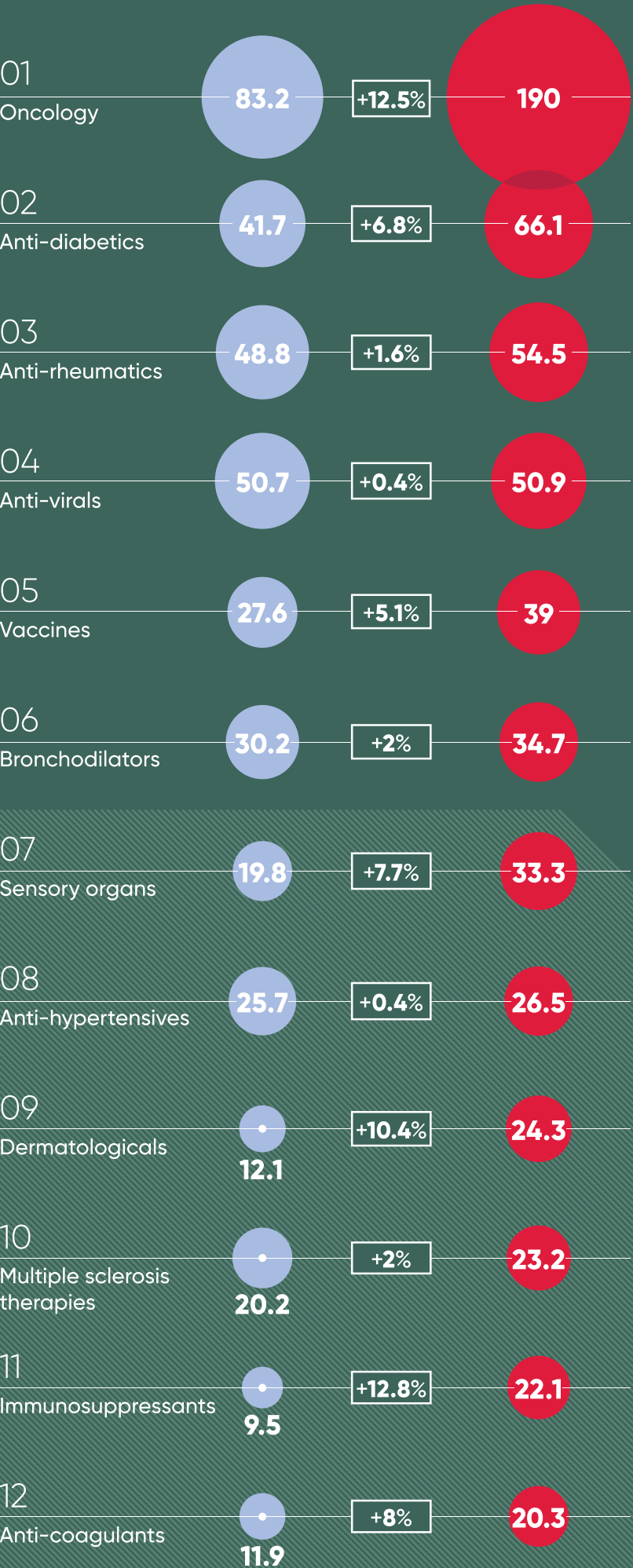
GLOBAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG SALES AT RISK FROM PATENT EXPIRATION (\$BN)

Sales at risk represent product sales in the year prior to patent expiry but allocated to the year of expiry

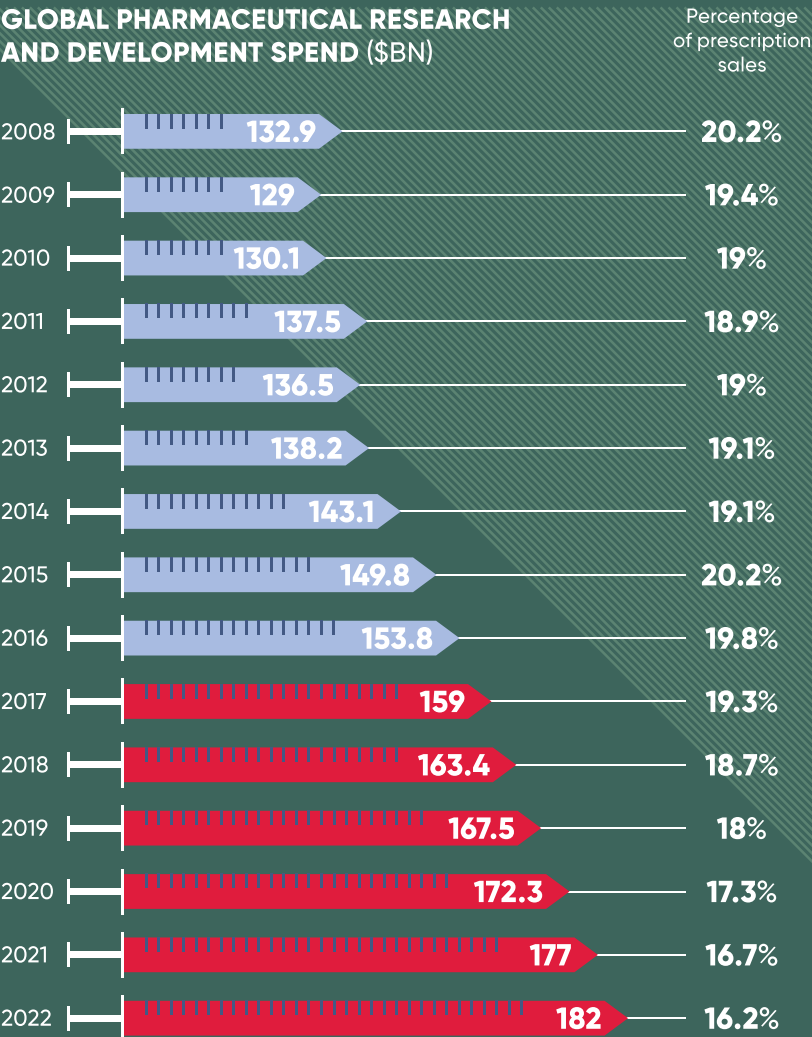


GLOBAL PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG SALES (\$BN)*
COMPARING SALES IN 2015 AND 2022 BY CATEGORY

● 2015 sales ● 2022 sales ○ Compound annual growth rate



GLOBAL PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SPEND (\$BN)



*Industry sales are based on the top 500 pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies

HIV AND PrEP

Call for preventative HIV drug on NHS

Taking antiretroviral drugs to prevent contracting HIV has greatly reduced infection, but so far success has been achieved by DIY campaigners

GONZALO VIÑA

Rarely has the fight against disease been so dramatic and unexpected, but a DIY insurgency against HIV helped infection rates plummet in the British capital last year.

Two websites offering advice on PrEP – pre-exposure prophylaxis or the practice of taking antiretroviral drugs to prevent contracting HIV – has helped cut infections recorded at four London sexual health clinics by 40 per cent.

While the clinics themselves offered essential support in the effort, use of PrEP among the highest group at risk from infection – sexually active gay men – has increased dramatically over the last 18 months through word of mouth and thanks to social media.

“We have created a community out of hope and created a substantial shift in the way community healthcare has been provided,” says Greg Owen, who runs the website *I Want PrEP Now*, which offers advice on how to buy the treatment. Mr Owen launched the site following a deluge of questions after posting on Facebook that he would be using PrEP.

Few now question the effectiveness of PrEP in reducing the spread of HIV. One of the most-commonly cited studies, known as PROUD, showed when it was published in *The Lancet* that PrEP helps prevent 17 out of every 20 HIV infections. And those who did contract the virus had failed to properly adhere to



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

the treatment, suggesting the efficacy of PrEP is closer to 100 per cent.

The drug most commonly used in PrEP is Truvada, which prevents HIV cells from replicating. The branded drug developed by US pharmaceutical giant Gilead costs around £400 which has proven prohibitive for many as a private prescription and has been similarly unaffordable for mass rollout by the NHS.

Mr Owen's site, working with sexual health clinics such as 56 Dean Street in London's Soho, has helped verify the quality of cheaper generic copies of Truvada manufactured in India and other countries in the developing world. The monthly cost for the treatment has plunged to about £40. Mr Owen says he hopes soon to be making the treatment available for as little as £20 a month to the more than

“This is about preventing transmission, but the PrEP debate gets tainted with a special significance

18,000 people who use his site on a monthly basis.

Will Nutland, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, says the effort should be seen as part of a broader set of campaigns that promote early diagnosis, access to antiretroviral drugs for those who are HIV positive as well as PrEP use.

Still, even though cities such as San Francisco, where infections dropped 17 per cent in 2015 following its Getting to Zero campaign, something different has happened in London.

“I have worked on HIV for 25 years and what we have seen with PrEP has been a massive change that I have never seen before – it's completely unprecedented,” says Dr Nutland, who founded the PrEP advice website *Prepster*.

He estimates that as many as 6,000 people, some now from other European cities, are being directed from Mr Owen's UK site to online pharmacies based overseas for PrEP.

Sheena McCormack, professor of clinical epidemiology at University College London, who led the PROUD trials, attributes the success in London to the opening of the Dean Street clinic in 2015 and the

two websites that have helped make PrEP more commonplace.

“The endorsement of the clinic has been important, but the website is the one place people can go and be confident about the source of the drugs,” she says.

But for all the successes, on average 17 people are diagnosed with HIV every day in the UK for whom PrEP is not available, according to the British HIV Association (BHIVA), a body representing those who work in HIV care.

Even Mr Owen concedes: “There is no way I can offer a wrap-around service for everyone. I love the website, but it is unsustainable in the long term.”

Unlike the United States, France, Norway, Australia, Israel, Canada, Kenya and South Africa, the UK has yet fully to approve PrEP use.

NHS Scotland announced last month that it will offer PrEP, while NHS Wales has advised against, pending a large-scale study.

But the biggest and most contested decision on whether to provide Truvada or a generic copy as a prophylactic has yet to be taken by the NHS in England, which said it would make the treatment available after losing a High Court battle. It has promised to start a trial during the summer for 10,000 people.

Chloe Orkin, who chairs BHIVA and is a consultant physician at the Royal London Hospital, says the attitude of the NHS in England has been “very disappointing”.

“We don't need another trial. The justification for this trial is not to see whether it works, but simply to see how they should implement using PrEP,” she says.

The NHS fears that rolling out PrEP could end up costing between £10 million and £20 million a year, taking a significant chunk of its £25-million budget for new treatments against rare diseases.

Professor Orkin says decisions on which treatments are given priority are taken on grounds of effectiveness and value for money, and PrEP provides both.

“This is about preventing transmission, but the PrEP debate gets tainted with a special significance. But sex is a behaviour and we don't hold back on other forms of preventative treatments whether it's cervical screening or the pill,” she says. “We have a real chance to change the course of this epidemic.” ●



HIV infections were prevented by PrEP in a 2015 study

PROUD 2015

PROJECTED LIFETIME HEALTHCARE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH HIV

Based on a study of 10,000 men aged 30 with HIV and a median life expectancy of 71.5 years

£360.8k

estimated mean lifetime cost of treating one person

68%

of these costs are attributed to antiretroviral drugs

£179k

estimated lifetime treatment cost if patented drugs are replaced by generic versions

‘The next government must have a clear strategy to grow the UK’s status as a world leader in innovation and access to medicines’

MIKE THOMPSON
Chief executive
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

The men and women who work in the pharmaceutical industry make a positive contribution to millions of patients, every day, in every corner of the world. We help to change, improve and save lives.



safe and effective treatments of the future.

But uptake of new treatments and technologies in the UK is slow in comparison with other developed countries. For every 100 patients who receive a new medicine

in its first year of launch in comparable countries, including Germany, France, Canada, Australia and the United States, only 18 will get it in the UK. Ahead of the general election, it is important that the next government have a clear strategy to secure and grow the UK’s status as a world leader in innovation and access to medicines.

Whoever is in power come June 8 must have a strategy to make NHS patient outcomes among the best in the world. This should start with a plan to increase healthcare investment to the G7 average of 11.3 per cent of GDP compared with the 9.9 per cent we currently spend. The best way to do this is through an effective industrial strategy with the life sciences sector at the heart of it.

As we enter what is arguably the most challenging period for our sector and as we look to exit the European Union, the new government must secure a new relationship with the EU which retains co-operation, and secures an agreement that prioritises public health and ensures the swift availability of medicines for patients. Some 500 million people across the EU depend on this.

Science innovation has helped increase UK life expectancy by ten years since the 1960s. For every success, there have been thousands of failures. It is easy to forget what our industry has done to help people live longer, better lives. The prime minister says: “It is hard to think of an industry of greater strategic importance to Britain than its pharmaceutical industry.” We should be proud. We must be ambitious for the future. In my 20-plus years in this amazing industry, I’ve learnt one important lesson above all others. If you put the patient at the centre of any decision, you will not go wrong.

How to get life-saving new medicines within the NHS budget

We are living in an era of rapid scientific discovery. Significant advances in our understanding of human biology and genetics are creating the possibility of new treatments that can dramatically improve or cure some of the most common and debilitating diseases known to man



Since its creation in 1980, Amgen has been a pioneer in the science of using living cells to make biologic medicines. In less than 40 years, it has grown from a single building in California to a worldwide leader in biotechnology and the seventh largest pharmaceutical company in the world by market capitalisation. Today it has a valuable portfolio of therapies to treat cancer, cardiovascular, bone and kidney disease.

Key to Amgen’s success has been its approach to research and development. With a focus on treatments for patients with the most serious illnesses, it is using advanced human genetics to shed new light on the molecular roots of many diseases.

These medical advances are coming though at a time when healthcare budgets are increasingly strained, the result of ageing populations and a rise in the number of people living with chronic diseases including cancer and dementia. How healthcare systems reconcile these increasing demands for care and benefit from this new wave of medical innovation is a significant issue for us all.

According to John Kearney, managing director for Amgen UK and Ireland: “The challenge facing healthcare systems and companies like Amgen is how to work together so patients can have quick and consistent access to new medicines that help them live longer and healthier lives. This also includes finding more efficient and effective ways of delivering healthcare”.

Amgen has been at the forefront



of companies that are working with local NHS organisations in England to enhance the delivery of patient care, with over 30 active projects that directly impact more than 15,000 NHS patients.

The multi-award winning project with the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation has resulted in more patients being treated closer to home, reducing their travelling times and costs as well as improving patient satisfaction with their treatment. It also saved the NHS money and freed up important space on the cancer ward.

While local NHS organisations have been quick to work with companies like Amgen, Mr Kearney believes that “more needs to be done by NHS leaders to speed up and replicate these new and best practices across England”.

He also believes that the fragmented nature of decision-making in England works against the quick and consistent use of new medicines across the country. “We agree the price of new medicines with the Department of Health, NICE [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence] makes recommendations on the use of new medicines to the NHS, while the NHS manages the health-

care budget. The reality is that each of these organisations is working to a different agenda so we lack a coherent approach to the introduction to new medicines,” says Mr Kearney.

“I believe we need a new strategic partnership with government, NICE and the NHS to answer the conundrum on how we accelerate the use of innovative new medicines while balancing the need for the NHS to work within its budget. In England, this would create a singular agreement about the pricing, introduction and use of new medicines.”

Amgen are encouraged that last year prime minister Theresa May launched an industrial strategy and the life science sector remains one of its priorities.

As a company which has developed from a single building in California less than forty years ago, Mr Kearney’s message to government from Amgen is clear: “No matter how much you do to help a company discover, develop and make new medicines, this time and investment will be wasted if healthcare systems do not enable patients to have quick and consistent access to these new medicines.”

For more information please visit www.amgen.co.uk



160

treatment opportunities freed up in a clinic each month by treating patients at home



100%

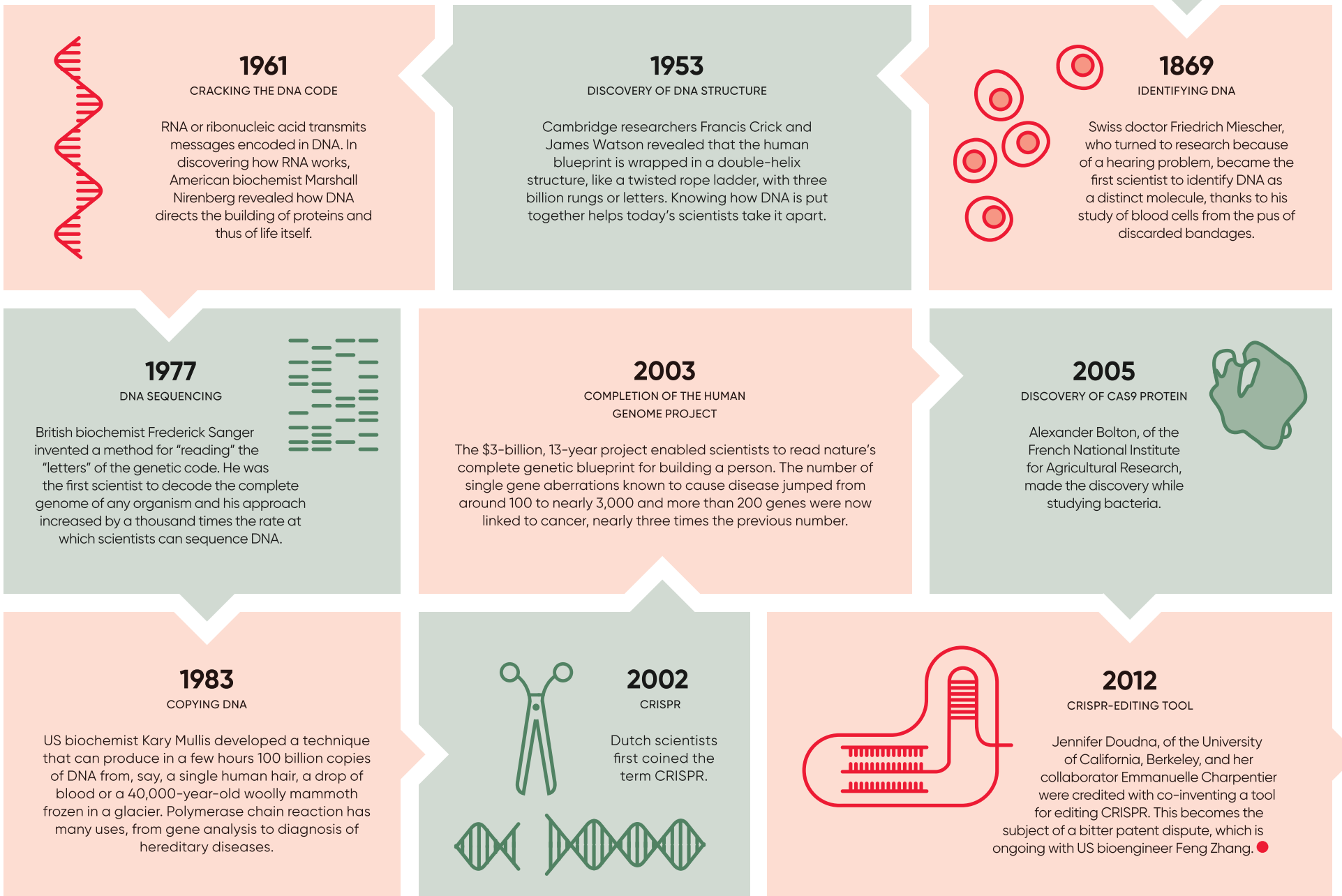
rating from patients for both satisfaction and meeting their needs

GENE-EDITING TIMELINE

Timeline of scientific discovery is transforming people's lives

Gene editing has emerged from a long chain of discovery. These are just a few examples highlighting the international collaboration which shines through the CRISPR-Cas9 story

JOHN ILLMAN



New eating disorder hospital in North London

Ellern Mede, specialist eating disorders service, has opened a new private hospital with short term inpatient services for children, adolescents and adults.

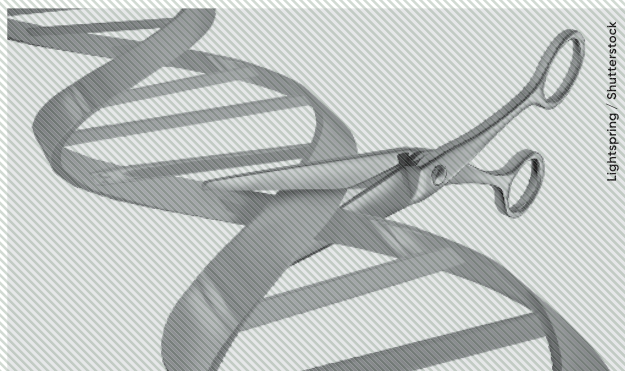
Launch event - all welcome - 2pm Saturday 17 June 2017

Call now for rapid assessment and treatment, with no waiting time for accepted cases.

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Ellern Mede
specialists in eating disorders treatment

INSIGHT GENE EDITING



Lightspring / Shutterstock

CRISPR-Cas9 has the potential, in theory, to change the lives of everyone and every living thing on the planet. Enabling scientists to edit our genes with unprecedented precision, ease and efficiency, it has been compared to cut-and-paste text editing. It comprises a chemical "sat nav" – an RNA or ribonucleic acid molecule – which is primed to guide "molecular scissors" – the Cas9 protein – to editing targets.

If it fulfils all its promise, CRISPR-Cas9 will eradicate family lines of hereditary, single gene disorders such as cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anaemia and Huntington's disease. It is already transforming research into gene therapies and helping to identify new drug targets.

Such is the excitement that one London researcher featured, along with Angela Merkel, Justin Trudeau and Pope Francis, in 2016's *Time 100*, which lists the world's most influential people. Dr Kathy Niakan's study of human embryos at London's Francis Crick Institute is taking her to where no scientist has been before.

US biochemist Dr Jennifer Doudna, co-inventor of the CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing tool, says: "Niakan's work will answer previously unanswerable questions about what makes a healthy embryo, what factors contribute to infertility and what goes wrong when pregnancies don't progress as planned."

This could reduce, among other things, the huge tragedy of miscarriage. The Miscarriage Association estimates that more than one in five pregnancies end in miscarriage, probably more than a quarter of a million each year in the UK alone.

But there is concern as well as hope, especially over the possible emergence of eugenics and the prospect of designer babies produced to order with traits

such as super strength or hyper-intelligence.

Ironically, CRISPR-Cas9's ease of use and cost is adding to ethical concern. On line DIY kits cost as little as \$120, up to 200 times less than a leading earlier system, stem. But the benefits are stacking up.

Although it was only discovered in 2012, CRISPR-Cas9 has already helped to correct the genetic defect in Duchenne muscular dystrophy in mice, deactivate 62 genes in pigs so organs of animals grown for human transplants won't be rejected, excise HIV from human cells in a laboratory and from living animals, create therapies that turn off cancer genes, force a gene that kills malaria parasites to spread through a whole population of parasite-bearing mosquitos, and create genetically modified animal models of human disease to study genetic changes that trigger illness or confer protection.

The world's first human CRISPR-Cas9 trial is underway at Sichuan University in China on ten patients with lung cancer.

CRISPR-Cas9 is not, of course, foolproof. For example, gene edits can occur at the wrong place, which could result in the disabling of a tumour suppressor gene or the activation of a cancer-causing one.

Translocation, the cause of chronic myeloid leukaemia, when pieces from two different chromosomes converge, is another potential problem. So there is currently research by many investigators to establish which regions of the genome could be accidentally "CRISPR'd". And there could also be unforeseen downstream consequences of unleashing altered organisms into the human gene pool, hence the caution around moving from laboratory to clinical trials.



Treating eating disorders

Ellern Mede, the specialist centre for eating disorders, is pioneering evidence-based ways to improve outcomes. Will short-term intensive inpatient stays be the future for this devastating mental illness?

"When evidence clearly shows that early intervention in eating disorders is crucial to reversing what can rapidly become an enduring and debilitating condition, waiting for more than 100 days for treatment is very worrying," warns Peter Curtis, managing director of Ellern Mede, a London centre which has one of very few eating disorder specialist high-dependency units in the world.

If eating disorders are addressed in time, treatment outcomes improve and potentially life-threatening complications affecting both physical and mental health can be prevented.

Incidence is highest among teenagers, with many patients eligible for NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The Department of Health has set a target to reduce waiting times for treatment for eating disorders to four weeks by 2020. Health policy is steering providers to outpatient and shorter-term services for eating disorders, and provision of care from the independent sector will play an important role in helping to beat this devastating illness.

The focus of health policy is to make treatment more accessible and affordable through short-term inpatient stays, supplemented by linked outpatient care. By intervening earlier in the eating disorder, Ellern Mede's

team of experts believe many more families and their loved ones can be spared a lifetime of suffering.

Recent international research suggests that access to specialist eating disorder treatment within the early months of its onset is likely to result in 60 to 80 per cent recovery rates.

Ellern Mede is a specialist hospital that focuses on providing care for eating disorders and commonly related conditions. The hospital currently cares for young people from anywhere in the UK and globally.

This May sees the opening of Ellern Mede's new purpose-designed hospital, Ellern Mede Barnet. This complements its current provision at Ellern Mede Ridgeway inpatient hospital and outpatient clinics in Harley Street and Wimpole Street, London. It also sees the introduction of an evidence-based family therapy-centred treatment model adapted by Ellern Mede for UK private clients, as well as the launch of a short-term "symptom interruption" adult bulimia inpatient programme.

Affordability for people who seek to fund their own treatment lies in the time-limited nature of Ellern Mede's treatment programme. Similar programmes have been proven to improve significantly eating disorders among patients in the United States over the past ten years.

"There is a real possibility that by offering short-term accessible, affordable eating disorder treatment as soon as it is diagnosed, we may see a tangible improvement in recovery rates," says Dr Hind Al Khairulla, clinical director of Ellern Mede.

"We could see a consequent reduction in both numbers of patients requiring longer-term inpatient care and also a reduction in the average length of stay at inpatient units. At Ellern Mede, our positive experience with recovery through intensive interventions,



At least **725,000** people in the UK are affected by an eating disorder



The sooner someone gets the treatment they need, the more likely they are to make a meaningful recovery



Eating disorders are serious mental health conditions and anorexia nervosa has the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric disorder

even for the most seriously ill patients, indicates that our new outpatient and inpatient programmes can make a real difference to recovery rates."

Ellern Mede currently treats more than 100 patients a year in its 26-bed unit at Mill Hill, many of those funded by the NHS. Its expansion to outpatient services and the model of short-term inpatient stays at its new unit nearby in Barnet is expected to increase significantly the number of patients it treats.

So, will this private sector-led model prove to be the beginning of a solution that the health sector will embrace for the future of eating disorder treatment? With as many as 725,000 people in the UK alone thought to have eating disorders, which have a higher mortality rate than any other mental illness, this is something health professionals will be watching with interest.

For more information on eating disorders or Ellern Mede please visit www.ellernmede.org or call 0203 210 2030

There is a real possibility that by offering short-term accessible, affordable eating disorder treatment as soon as it is diagnosed, we may see a tangible improvement in recovery rates

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New drugs for not-so-rare diseases

Just how rare are rare diseases in the UK? Not as rare as you might think

MARTIN BARROW

Although each patient group is small, about 6 per cent of the population will be affected by a rare disease at some point in their life, which in the UK equates to about four million people. To put that into context, there are 1.5 million people with a learning disability. What's more, rare diseases are becoming less rare as around five new types are described in medical literature each week.

The prevalence of rare diseases is an important principle to establish. For years, policy around the allocation of resources for the treatment of rare diseases has been influenced by the perception that few people are affected and there are more urgent priorities.

As a consequence, access to treatment for a patient with a rare disease historically has been poor. Pharma-

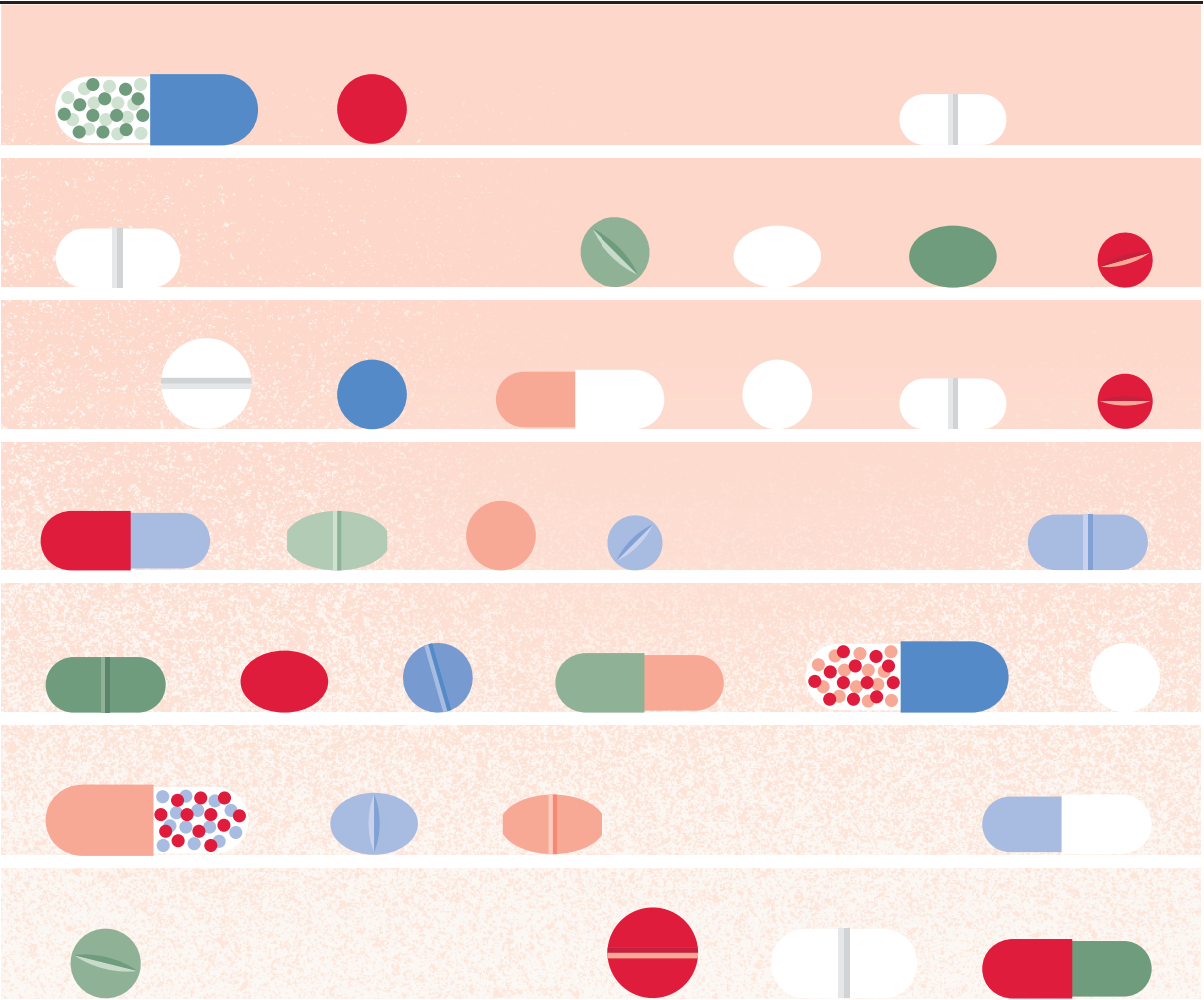
ceutical companies have focused on blockbuster drugs aimed at treating millions of people and public health systems have been designed to support large population groups. Despite advances in drug development, many rare diseases lack any treatment options.

The stage is set for this to change. There has been a surge in investment in so-called orphan drugs, which are targeted at rare diseases, bringing hope to millions of patients and their families. Last year the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) received a record 582 requests for orphan drug designation from biopharma companies, 110 more than 2015 which was itself a record year. Emerging science is giving drugmakers the tools they need to develop new drugs for conditions that were previously too complex to treat.

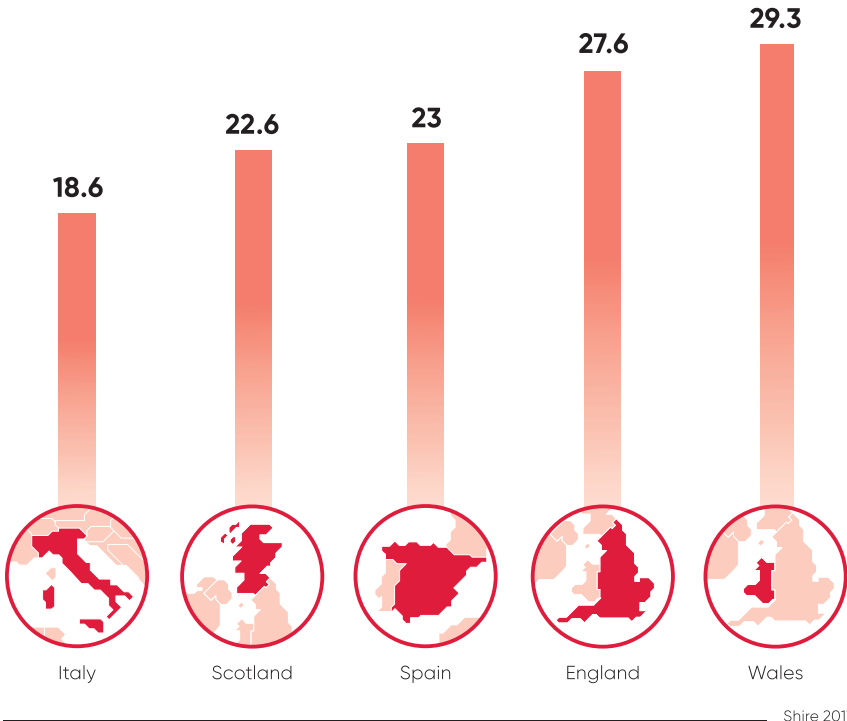
Breakthroughs are being made at a time when blockbuster drugs are coming off patent, forcing pharmaceutical companies to explore new revenue streams. Evaluate Pharma, the life sciences intelligence firm, estimates that orphan sales hit \$114 billion in 2016, a 12 per cent increase over 2015. The market is set to double over the next six years, accounting for one fifth of the total prescription drug market by 2022, according to some forecasts.

Historically, orphan drug development was mostly performed by small biotechs, but more than half are now created by mid to large pharmaceutical firms. In 2016, the ten best-selling drugs for rare diseases were made by companies including Celgene, Roche, Teva, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Biogen, AbbVie, Amgen and Novartis.

However, the advent of a new generation of drugs and treatments for patients who previously had no hope creates new challenges for healthcare providers. While systems are being repurposed to speed up access to innovative drugs, the high cost of new medicines remains a formidable barrier.



FUNDING WAITING TIME FOR ORPHAN MEDICINAL PRODUCTS
AVERAGE TIME IN MONTHS



Shire 2017

In England the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) takes decisions based on cost effectiveness, including the impact on quality-adjusted life years. This approach has resulted in a number of promising drugs being rejected, despite their proven effectiveness.

A case in point is Alexion's Kanuma to treat the rare inherited genetic disorder lysosomal acid lipase deficiency (LAL-D). Infants with LAL-D normally do not live to see their first birthday without treatment. In clinical trials with Kanuma, five out of nine infants survived beyond three years of age, achieving normal developmental

milestones. Yet earlier this year, NICE decided the high cost of the drug, at around £500,000 a patient, could not be justified by its long-term treatment benefits.

A recent report by Shire Pharmaceuticals, the biotechnology company, revealed that patients with rare diseases in England must wait an average of 28 months for their treatments to be funded by the NHS, longer than in Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Scotland. The report also found that 52 per cent of medicines for rare diseases approved in the last 15 years in England are not funded for routine use. By comparison, Germany funds all

orphan medicinal products as soon as they are approved by the European Medicines Agency.

Sebastian Stachowiak, general manager of Shire UK, says: "Patients living with a rare disease in the UK face significant barriers to access life-saving medicines. The UK lags behind European counterparts in speed and access to rare-disease medicines with an assessment process that is not fit for purpose."

"With a general election, the new government has an opportunity to take a bold step to make sure that no patient living with a rare disease is left behind. Industry, government, patient groups and wider stakeholders need to come together to build a bespoke, fit-for-purpose process for evaluating medicines for rare diseases that enables access to treatments for patients living with a life-threatening condition."

The pharma sector says development costs are the same for orphan medicines as they are for blockbuster drugs, but the cost per patient is exponentially higher. Health providers say developers are abusing the system and must be more open about the true cost of innovation.

This tension has encouraged new research into approved drugs, which may be used to treat another illness and carries less risk than starting from scratch, since the drug has already met regulatory requirements and undergone post-market monitoring.

Elsevier's R&D Solutions is working with the charity Findacure to tackle rare diseases such as congenital hyperinsulinism and Friedrich's Ataxia. Tim Hootor, vice-president of professional services at R&D Solutions, says: "With these kinds of collaborations, the healthcare system saves money, and patients get access to effective and affordable drugs sooner." ●

“Breakthroughs are being made at a time when blockbuster drugs are coming off patent, forcing pharmaceutical companies to explore new revenue streams



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DAY 4	AGRA - JAIPUR
DAY 5	JAIPUR
DAY 6	JAIPUR - DELHI
DAY 7	DELHI - MUSCAT
DAY 8	MUSCAT Embark Silver Muse
DAY 9-10	At Sea
DAY 11	MUMBAI
DAY 12	At Sea
DAY 13	COCHIN
DAY 14	COLOMBO
DAY 15-17	At Sea
DAY 18-20	YANGON
DAY 21	At Sea
DAY 22	PHUKET
DAY 23	LANGKAWI
DAY 24	PORT KLANG
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DAY 5-6	SANTIAGO - Hotel Stay - Sightseeing tour
DAY 7	VALPARAISO - Embark Crystal Symphony
DAY 8	COQUIMBO
DAY 9	At Sea
DAY 10	IQUIQUE
DAY 11	At Sea
DAY 12	PISCO
DAY 13-14	LIMA (Callao)
DAY 15	At Sea
DAY 16-17	GUAYAQUIL
DAY 18	At Sea
DAY 19	COLON - PANAMA CANAL (Scenic Cruising)
DAY 21	COLON - Disembark Crystal Symphony



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DAY 9	At Sea
DAY 10	DEVIL'S ISLAND (French Guiana)
DAY 11	At Sea
DAY 12	MACAPA
DAY 13	SANTAREM
DAY 14	BOCA DE VALERIA (Amazon)
DAY 15-17	MANAUS
DAY 18	PARINTINS
DAY 19	ALTER DO CHAO
DAY 20	MACAPA
DAY 21-22	At Sea
DAY 23	SCARBOROUGH (Tobago)
DAY 24	BARBADOS Disembark Silver Whisper



BARBADOS

Discover

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The coastline offers beach paradise, while a walk into the city reveals many shops, selling everything from designer clothes to the famous Barbados rum. Take an island safari to learn about the area's history and culture, or visit the dramatic and beautiful landscape of Bathsheba, home to white-sand beaches, verdant parks and striking rock formations.

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- In-suite butler service and fully stocked fridge on board
- All-inclusive alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages including fine wines and premium spirits whilst on board
- Five-night hotel stay at the Tamarind in Barbados
- Three-course meal at Daphne's restaurant
- Three days in port in Brazil
- Return flights and transfers

**ALL-INCLUSIVE
LUXURY CRUISING**



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SUN, SAND AND SPEED:
ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX AND CRUISE

EXPERIENCE
THE
ABU DHABI
GRAND PRIX



13 NIGHTS
FROM
£2,099
PER PERSON

Celebrity
X
Cruises

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1-3

ABU DHABI - Hotel Stay
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

DAY 4

ABU DHABI -
Embark Celebrity Constellation

DAY 5

At Sea

DAY 6-7

MUSCAT

DAY 8

At Sea

DAY 9

KHASAB

DAY 10-12

DUBAI

DAY 13-14

ABU DHABI -
Disembark Celebrity Constellation

ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX

Discover
The Grand Prix awaits, guaranteed to get your pulse racing, and with your two-day Grandstand tickets you'll be in the centre of the action.

Watch the world's best Formula 1 drivers navigate the Yas Marina Circuit's serpentine shape, with its sharp corners and scenic waterfront that rivals the likes of Monaco and Singapore. And don't forget Yas Island's phenomenal entertainment options, from waterparks to theatre shows, with exceptional dining venues.

13 NIGHTS DEPARTING NOVEMBER, 24 2017

INSIDE
£2,099pp

OUTSIDE
£2,599pp

BALCONY
£2,899pp

CONCIERGE CLASS
£3,299pp

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 10-night full-board cruise on board Celebrity Constellation
- Book an Outside cabin or above and enjoy a **FREE** classic drinks package **PLUS \$300 on-board credit per stateroom**
- Three-night stay at The Cristal Hotel in Abu Dhabi
- Two-day Grandstand tickets to the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix
- Return Emirates Airline flights and all transfers



MUSCAT



DUBAI

ABU DHABI

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ROMANCE ON THE RIVER SEINE

**ALL-
INCLUSIVE
RIVER
CRUISING**



7 NIGHTS
FROM
£699*
PER PERSON

aROSA
Schöne Zeit

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1	PARIS Embark A-ROSA Viva
DAY 2-3	ROUEN
DAY 4	CAUDEBEC-EN-CAUX
DAY 5	LES ANDELYS
DAY 6	VERNON
DAY 7	PARIS
DAY 8	PARIS Disembark A-ROSA Viva



PARIS

Discover

The Seine is the lifeblood of Paris, curving past the city's greatest landmarks, including the Louvre and the Eiffel tower.

This waterway holds a fascinating history; the Romans built the first bridge across the river in the 1st century AD and the ashes of Joan of Arc were scattered in the waters at Rouen. As you sail along the Seine, you'll find towns and villages that have inspired countless painters, along with a rich architectural heritage holding medieval streets, set with bistros serving the best French cuisine.

7 NIGHTS DEPARTING MAY - OCTOBER 2017

RIVERVIEW

£699*pp

FRENCH BALCONY

£999*pp

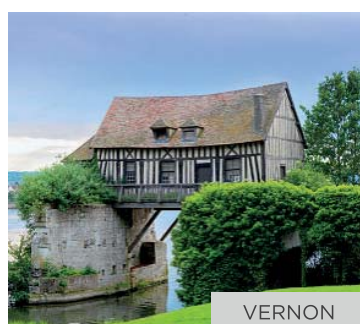
WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven-night all-inclusive river cruise on board A-ROSA Viva
- **Unlimited beverages on board including wines, beers, spirits, cocktails, soft drinks, coffee, tea, juices and water**
- Free use of all on-board amenities
- Enjoy an overnight stay in port in Rouen, explore its gothic churches and cobblestone streets, with medieval half-timbered houses
- Experience another overnight stay in port in Paris; enjoy the winding streets of Montmartre and the panoramic view from the top of the Eiffel Tower
- All flights and transfers

**SALE EXTENDED!
FURTHER PRICE
REDUCTIONS**



RIVER SEINE



VERNON



ROUEN



A-ROSA VIVA

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RADIANCE OF THE RHÔNE RIVER

ALL-INCLUSIVE RIVER CRUISING



7 NIGHTS FROM **£899*** PER PERSON



Schöne Zeit

YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1	LYON Embark A-ROSA Stella
DAY 2	MACON
DAY 3	CHALON SUR SAONE - TOURNUS
DAY 4	LYON
DAY 5	CHATEAUNEUF DU PAPE - AVIGNON
DAY 6	AVIGNON - ARLES
DAY 7	VIVIERS - LA VOULTE
DAY 8	LYON Disembark A-ROSA Stella



LYON

Discover

Fairy-tale towers, sun-drenched vineyards and striking scenery.

The second-longest river in France, the Rhône River spans 504 miles. This waterway has served as an important inland trade route since ancient Roman times, with the towns and cities along its serpentine route holding ruins and relics from eras long since gone. Renaissance charms await in Lyon, called “la ville de gueule” – the gourmet town. One must-visit attraction is the spectacular Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière, whose white towers overlook the city.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven-night all-inclusive river cruise on board A-ROSA Stella
- Unlimited beverages on board including wines, beers, spirits, cocktails, soft drinks, coffee, tea, juices and water**
- Free use of all on-board amenities
- Experience a brief stop at Avignon and explore the medieval wall that snakes around the old city
- Experience an overnight stay in port in Arles, where you can visit many UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the Gallo- Roman theatre
- All flights and transfers

7 NIGHTS DEPARTING JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2017

RIVERVIEW

£899*pp

FRENCH BALCONY

£1,199*pp



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